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Andalucía's Fortnightly News Publication **Eastern Edition** Issue 47, May 14 2008

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'Reprehensible and intolerable'



Photos courtesy of Granada Hoy

Fury as bull fights bulldozer during Granada fiesta

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New solar farms for Granada

SIX solar plants capable of generating a total of 700 kilowatts of energy are under construction in the Granada province.

The largest, which is being built outside the Alpujarra town of Órgiva, will see French company Sun Developers 17 install a 100 kilowatt sun farm on 70,000 square metres of land close to the Morreon travellers' camp.

At a cost of ten million euros, the plant of more than 600 185-watt photovoltaic panels is expected to be finished later this year.

"Órgiva's future photovoltaic plant will maximize the whole area's potential and will reduce the number of cuts in the electricity supply," mayor María Ángeles Blanco said.

Five smaller plants are under construction on the Costa Tropical. The Huerto Solar farm near Salobreña will be erected on 18,000 square metres of land at Los Palmares. Each plant will generate 100 kilowatts of energy that will be sold to utilities company Sevillana Endessa.

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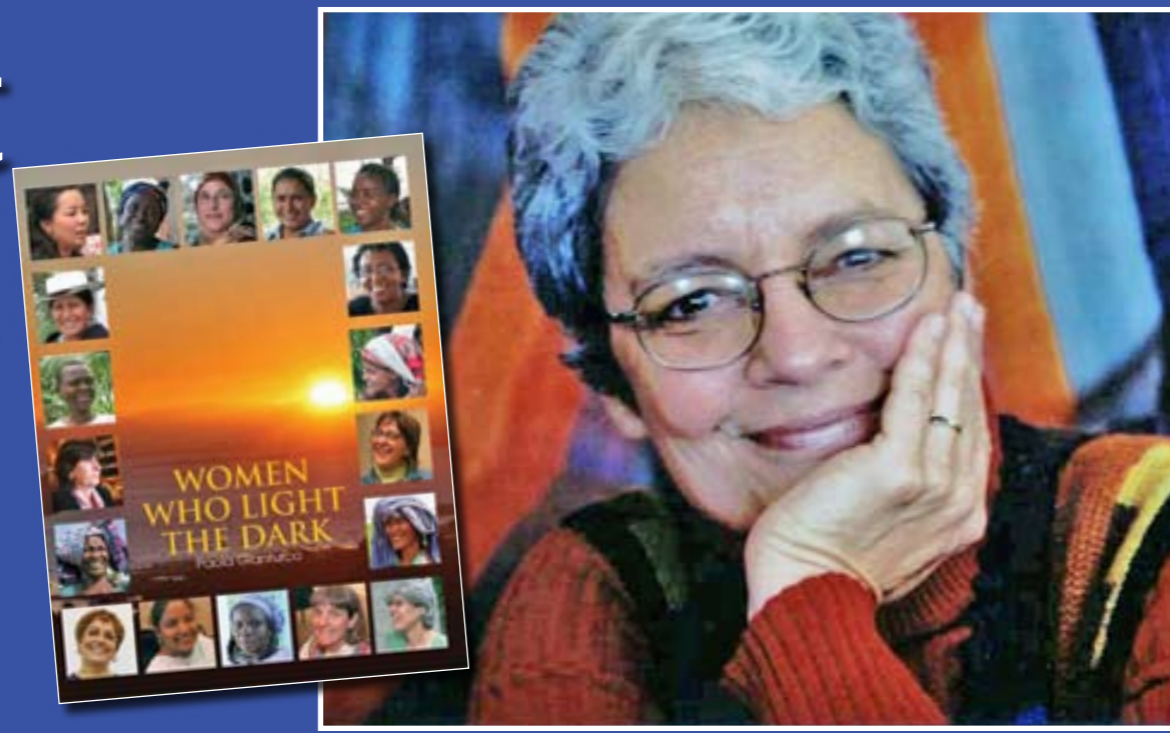
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Light at the end of the tunnel



Ahead of her visit to the Costa Tropical, acclaimed photo-journalist Paola Gianturco tells MARY ROULSTON of the inspiration behind her new book, Women Who Light the Dark

STRONG, inspirational, compassionate, courageous. These are some of the adjectives evoked by the title of Paola Gianturco's new book, *Women Who Light the Dark*. A quick straw poll among friends ahead of this article also brought up vibrant, ground-breaking and ruthless.

Reading more about the women featured in the book, the adjectives turn into myriad superlatives as each of their stories unfolds with the help of Gianturco's prose and stunning photography.

Women Who Light the Dark is the end product of a decade-long journey that has seen the photo-journalist sharing the lives of women in 40 different countries around the globe.

Her previous work includes *Viva Colores! A Salute to the Indomitable People of Guatemala*; and *Celebrating Women*, a book which later became the subject of the first exhibit ever curated by the International Museum of Women, San Francisco.

In her current book the author, a confirmed philanthropist who donates all her royalties from sales of the books to charity, salutes women across the world who are helping one another tackle the problems that darken their lives: domestic

violence, sex trafficking, war, poverty, illiteracy, discrimination, inequality, malnutrition and disease. These women may lack material resources, but they possess a wealth of an even more precious resource: imagination. And their imagination illuminates the dark.

Challenges

One inspirational story is of the unique way girls in the southern Africa country of Zimbabwe go about shocking communities into fighting child rape. There, many men still believe that AIDS will be cured if they have sex with a virgin.

Betty Makoni, a young teacher, and six of her high school students began meeting after school to talk about this terrible - shared - experience and, over time, such discussion groups started in other schools. Today, the Girl Child Network numbers 20,000 members, all aged between 6 to 16.

Half of these have been raped. The girls have mobilized to stop this pernicious practice. Their weapon? Poetry. They write about their experiences and perform their poems pub-

licly. This galvanises whole communities into action. We also hear of how women in Morocco produce plays to educate illiterate people about women's rights.

Then there are those in Vietnam, where counsellors heal survivors of domestic violence with line dancing, art, and games. Teachers in India who invent puppet shows to help homeless children understand AIDS. Brazilian maths teachers who inspire girls from the slums (favelas) to learn arithmetic by originating fashion shows.

"All of us working together kindle new hope for our world"

Roma women in Slovakia who collaborate with non-Roma women to design postcards, kindling communication in place of suspicion. Lesbians in Argentina who develop and stage street skits, demonstrating against discrimination.

A master ballet teacher instructs who a thousand poor Cuban children in classical dance. Sometimes imagination takes

the form of innovative strategies. In the mountain regions of Nepal, women teach each other how to drive taxis and guide treks in the Himalayas; and in Nicaragua, to become welders, carpenters, and electricians - all considered jobs for men.

In Kenya, mothers get wells dug close to schools, so their daughters can be educated alongside the boys instead of walking seven hours to fetch water.

In Cambodia, doctors and nurses conduct mobile clinics and arrange loans to give indigent women the funds to start businesses. This foils the sex traffickers who lure women with promises of income.

In the United States, activists introduce women with disabilities to challenge courses, camping, white water rafting, and swimming, empowering them to lead others who are also disabled.

Dangers

When asked what she hopes her book will achieve, Gianturco tells me: "I hope these stories of women's successes will be heartening, a reminder that positive change is under way.

Because non-profit enterprises have limited resources, I hope these stories will inspire others to support them."

Of the sometimes dangerous and challenging situations she faced while compiling the book, the former advertising executive (she spent 34 years in the business before embarking on her career in photo-journalism) describes how she photographed and interviewed during armed violence in both Nepal and Morocco.

However, it was two relatively peaceful countries that disturbed her the most: "In Cambodia, where 30 years ago the Khmer Rouge killed virtually all the educated people, today's adults still seem traumatised.

"In Cameroon, a corrupt, disease-riddled, poverty-stricken African nation populated by people who are suffering, half the population lives on two US dollars a day. In more extreme situations, families live on five dollars a month, while lifesaving drugs cost upwards of six dollars a month."

Her work has been exhibited by the United Nations and the United States Senate. In her native US, important museums in Chicago, capital Washington DC and San Francisco have all shown her photography.

She has also appeared on the

Oprah Winfrey Show and CNN in addition to countless other radio and television programmes.

To add to that illustrious list, Gianturco is presenting *Women Who Light the Dark* at the Hotel Salobreña on the Costa Tropical as part of her trip around Europe - an appearance that is hosted by the International Club of Salobreña and co-sponsored by the Olive Press.

"I am honoured to have been asked to speak in Salobreña," she says. "I am looking forward to meeting some of the local residents, many of whom are involved with the challenges which face women today."

Equality

All her royalties from the sales of the book will be donated to the Global Fund For Women, a group which awards grants to women's groups around the world, as are the proceeds from her presentation on the Costa Tropical.

Gianturco explains the reasons for this donation are fourfold: "Firstly, Global Fund applicants can request grants with letters handwritten in their own languages. Secondly, the organization treats its staff, donors and beneficiaries as equals: a poor woman in Bangladesh who contributes a dol-



WOMEN IN AFRICA: "When local people solve their own problems, they are most likely to be effective," says Gianturco (facing page and above centre)

lar is acknowledged alongside affluent North Americans who

give thousands. Additionally, the Global Fund for Women is seeding women's funds in 17 countries to encourage local philanthropy.

Lastly and most importantly, Global Fund grantees are transforming life for themselves, their families and communities and, over time, for all of us." She sums up in a few simple

words what it is that keeps her doing philanthropic work and tirelessly spreading the message of the women who light the dark: "I observe that when local people solve their own problems, they are most likely to be effective."

"It takes all of us working together to kindle new hope and possibilities for our world." When reading of the remarkable women who overcome the difficulties of their own lives to help others lighten up their darkness the words of an Ivor Cutler song come to mind: "Women of the world take over. Because if you don't the world will come to an end. And we haven't got long."

Women Who Light the Dark is published by powerHouse Books and is available via or mail order company Amazon

The International Club of Salobreña and the Olive Press are proud to bring you the only stop in Andalucía of Paola Gianturco's book tour.

Do not miss this unique opportunity to hear more about the photojournalist and her work at the Hotel Salobreña at 4pm on Friday May 30. All proceeds will be donated to the Global Fund for Women. For more information, please contact Arlene Nichols of the Salobreña International club on 666 76 34 78.

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More Forthcoming Events in Salobreña

Fri May 16
Performance by the School of Ballet of the Casa de la Cultura, Salobreña. Auditorio Villa de Salobreña at 7pm
Proceeds will go towards the leisure and free time association for the disabled, Cometa Blanca.
Tickets: 3€

Sat May 17
Levantate Y Anda (Rise and Walk). Romantic harp recital by Cristina Montes-Mateo. Auditorio Villa de Salobreña at 7pm
Works performed include Saint-Saint, Fauré and Henriette Renié.
Tickets: TBA

Friday May 30
Performance by the La Escuela de Baile Flamenco de Salobreña. Auditorio Villa de Salobreña at 6pm
Tickets: 3€

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