



# **Ain't I a Woman! A Book of Women's Poetry from Around the World**

*Illona Linthwaite*

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Spanning the centuries from Sappho's Greece to tenth-century Japan, from nineteenth-century Chile to Zindiswa Mandela's twentieth-century South Africa, the voices of these women poets express themes of love, injustice, motherhood, and loss, and the oppressions of race and sex. The sequence of the poems moves from youth to old age, and they bear witness to the triumphs as well as the pain and frustration of women in many times and in many places.

Among the many poets whose work is included are Anna Akhmatova, Maya Angelou, Judith Kazantzis, Gabriela Mistral, Marge Piercy, Irina Ratushinskaya and Alice Walker.

Illona Linthwaite began gathering this collection several years ago, initially for a theatrical performance.

Here, in this unique exchange between women of many races, affirming their differences and what they have in common, are more than 150 poems which assert the black abolitionist Sojourner Truth's challenge, "Ain't I a Woman!"

In addition to the poems, there are biographies of the 91 contributors.

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