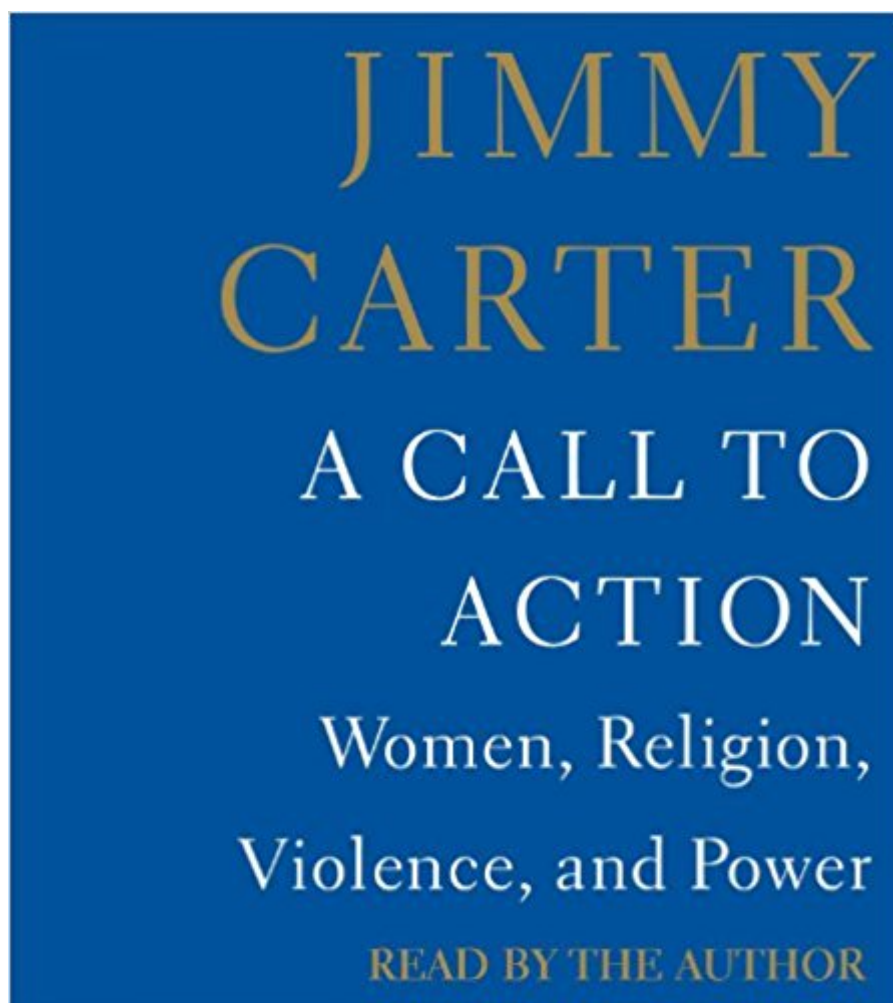


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A Call To Action: Women, Religion, Violence, And Power



Synopsis

The world's discrimination and violence against women and girls is the most serious, pervasive, and ignored violation of basic human rights: This is President Jimmy Carter's call to action. President Carter was encouraged to write this book by a wide coalition of leaders of all faiths. His urgent report is current. It covers the plight of women and girls strangled at birth, forced to suffer servitude, child marriage, genital cutting, deprived of equal opportunity in wealthier nations and "owned" by men in others. And the most vulnerable, along with their children, are trapped in war and violence. He addresses the adverse impact of distorted religious texts on women, by Protestants, Catholics, Jews, and Muslims. Special verses are often omitted or quoted out of context to exalt the status of men and exclude women. In a remark that is certain to get attention, Carter points out that women are treated more equally in some countries that are atheistic or where governments are strictly separated from religion. Carter describes his personal observations of the conditions and hardships of women around the world. He describes a trip in Africa with Bill Gates, Sr. and his wife, where they are appalled by visits to enormous brothels. He tells how he joined Nelson Mandela to plead for an end to South Africa's practice of outlawing treatments to protect babies from AIDS-infected mothers. Throughout, Carter reports on observations of women activists and workers of The Carter Center. This is an informed and passionate charge about human rights abuses against half the world's population. It comes from one of the world's most renowned human rights advocates.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“A tour de force of the global abuse and manipulation of women, including statistics that will stun most readers with details that cannot be ignored”
“The scope of the material is astounding”
“Mr. Carter’s A Call to Action should not only be required reading in America, but should also serve as the template for a complete reinterpretation of the religious views behind our treatment of each other, to discover what he claims is the true meaning behind the miracle of creation.” (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette)
“A Call to Action reinforces his dedication to wiping out injustice and his ability to move others to join his cause.” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch)
“When reading ends with a list of recommendations to ameliorate the condition of women and girls worldwide, such as having more women in higher public office and involving religious scholars to give a more forward-looking interpretation to their faiths. It is this commitment to a progressive religious outlook that makes Carter almost a lone voice in U.S. politics.” (Progressive.org)
“[Carter] wrote his book with deep knowledge, insight and compassion”
“Indeed, it is time to wake up.” (Morning Call (PA))
“> enhances [Carter’s] role as elder statesman and human rights warrior by focusing entirely on the enslavement, degradation, and torture that women endure around the world. . . . an important book that should serve as a reference guide and instructional manual for dealing with the atrocities against women.” (The Daily Beast) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Jimmy Carter was the thirty-ninth President of the United States, serving from 1977 to 1981. In 1982, he and his wife founded The Carter Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of people around the world. Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002. He is the author of two-dozen books, including A Full Life; An Hour Before Daylight; Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid and Our Endangered Values. He lives in Plains, Georgia.

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Carter will probably antagonize more people with this book than any of his others. He has documented his position with facts and statistics that can't be disputed. Such as, in India female genocide has become so common that women are only about two thirds as numerous as men.

Similar findings are documented for China, and the inferiority of women is glaringly obvious in the Middle East. What will raise so much objection to his work is that he points out how all the major religions can be used to justify female inferiority and thus the ill treatment of women. The Bible, the Koran, and Hindu texts all have passages explicitly claiming male superiority. Of course, the statements are contradicted elsewhere in the sacred writings, but male leaders have no trouble selecting the passages that enforce their superiority. Carter doesn't hesitate to shine light on the United States and its rampant sex trade. One can't help but admire his courage when he picks out Atlanta as the busiest place in the business of sex, but what must be most admired is how he tells of leaving the religion in which he was raised-and served as a Sunday School teacher-when he realized how much sex discrimination existed in the Southern Baptist denomination. He also takes on the Catholic Church for its sex discrimination. Its a book that's sure to be discussed and cursed for a long time. A tremendous eye opener. eschusky.com

I know Jimmy Carter takes a lot of flack for his performance as a President, fine .But he is truly an incredible American. This book lays out in clear, direct language the global ills and lack of progress we can make if we face if we oppress 50% of the population. Often dismissed as 'women's issues', sexual repression in the form of gendercide, family violence, political and religious attacks on family planning, etc affect the human race as a whole. He points to examples in history and illustrates his points with comparative cultures. I'm drawn to his humble approach and peace-driven (very logical) reasoning. He points out we have become a world where violence is the first choice instead of a last resort. Not to sound hippy-dippy, but he makes a very good point that it does not make for a better world. I would love to put this in the hands of every religious fundamentalist out there, because it would be a dose of intelligence, rationale and humility in their willfully ignorant worlds. I feel this book was timely, as it seems there is a push-back on women's progression in the past few years. It feels like women have to defend themselves for their sexuality and their desire for equality at every turn. His common sense views feel almost damn therapeutic in a world full of crazy.

This is an eye opening and startling account of what happens to little girls in the Middle East, Asia and other countries. The sickening practice of genital mutilation of young girls is a horror in any day and age. The slavery of young women in the world is rampant. There is much more in this book that needs to be read by all people. Thank you President Carter for exposing these horrors in today's world.

Jimmy Carter has used his enormous influence to address one of the world's major problems -- the denigration of and failure to protect our greatest source of moral and physical strength -- women and girls right to be accorded equality. This book is a polemic and in the style that makes Carter so appealing to me, he addresses the problems around the world that afflict half of human population. He marshals statistics and anecdotes about the use of abuse (rape, torture, genital mutilation, etc.) as a tactic of war, to the failure to recognize the loss of the enormous potential that women bring to virtually any activity through society's demeaning attitudes toward women and girls. With sensitivity, with the use of evidence-based information (statistics that reflect what are the actual results of this negative orientation) and with his own willingness to show his own myopic (my interpretation of his views) orientation toward some women's rights issues like abortion that are simply based upon his religious ideas as a Baptist, he shows his willingness to think again about the full range of the implications of the plight of women around the world. From child brides, to indentured domestic servitude, sexual slavery, to prostitution, Even if one is supportive of women's rights, it helps to have one's conscious awareness refreshed again.

Excellent for those who want truly to understand key issues driving not only American society, but globally. Strong insight (from active participation through government, faith institutions, charitable organizations and especially the Carter Center). A devout Christian applying the biblical precepts of his faith without pulling punches regarding our failures. Much insight regarding other cultures, their beliefs, and the tensions that keep nations (including our own) and peoples in conflict. For those who parrot ideological "characterizations" of people and cultures different from American this is a chance for a different perspective. Danger: may cause brain cells to derail from single track. Closes with a constructive list of actions that could lead us back to being "civilized" (my characterization) again. All based on true commitment to loving neighbor, service to the needy, and being good stewards of this planetbecause we are all in this together on the one blue ball spinning through space.

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