

## Happy Women's Day 2021 #ChooseToChallenge

'Choose to Challenge' is the theme for Women's Day 2021. There are various ways in which each one of us can choose to challenge in order to promote gender equality and contribute to ending violence against women.

Our project on a 'Gender Sensitive Approach to Mentoring ICC Judges and Judges of other International Courts and Tribunals', chaired by Her Excellency Judge Florence Mumba of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), with participation by international judges at the highest levels chooses to challenge. The activities have addressed topical and undertreated areas of gender justice such as, 'Gender Issues Concerning Approaches to Female Witnesses'.

Notably, women have used their voices to challenge gender inequality and violence against women through non-fiction storytelling. Here are a few of those compelling stories:

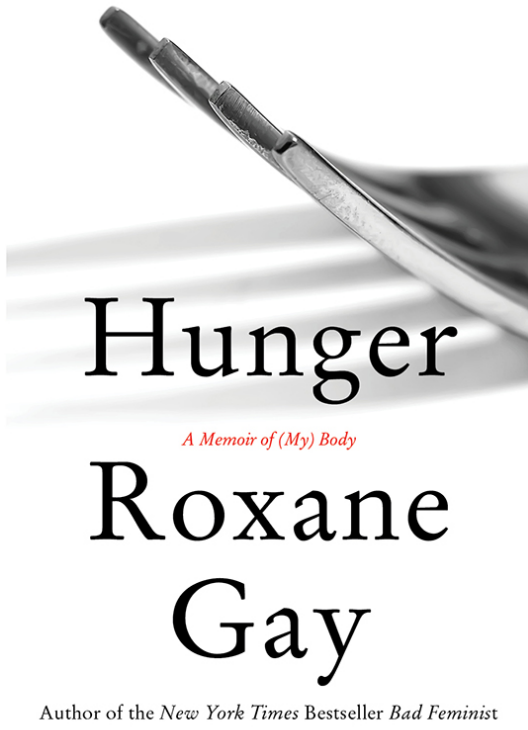


Toufah Jallow © BBC

### **Toufah: The Woman Who Inspired an African #MeToo Movement, by TOUFAH JALLOW**

In 2015, Toufah Jallow was the nineteen-year-old daughter of the second wife in her father's polygamous household. Her mother, outwardly conforming, had made sure that her daughter was educated and had ambitions of her own. Toufah entered a presidential beauty pageant designed to identify the country's smart young women and support their educational and career goals. Toufah won. Yahya Jammeh, the dictator who had ruled The Gambia all of Toufah's life, styled himself as a pious yet progressive protector of women. At first, he behaved in a fatherly fashion, but then he proposed marriage. When Toufah turned

him down, she was lured to the palace where Jammeh drugged and raped her. [She could not possibly go to the police in a country where Jammeh's] critics were routinely imprisoned, tortured and murdered. [When they tried to lure her to the palace again, she] knew she couldn't stay in The Gambia. Wearing a niqab to hide her identity, she fled to [neighbouring] Senegal [from where] she found refuge in Canada. © Amazon **Coming Soon!**



**Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body, by ROXANE GAY**

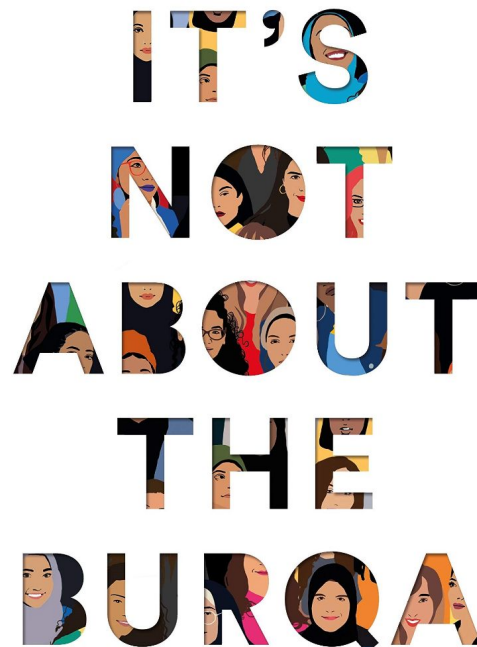
In her phenomenally popular essays, Roxane Gay has written with intimacy and sensitivity about food and body, using her own emotional and psychological struggles as a means of exploring our shared anxieties over pleasure, consumption, appearance, and health. As a woman who describes her own body as “wildly undisciplined,” Roxane understands the tension between desire and denial, between self-comfort and self-care. In *Hunger*, she explores her past—including the devastating act of violence that acted as a turning point in her young life—and brings readers along on her journey to understand and ultimately save herself.

© Harper Collins Publisher

**It's Not About the Burqa: Muslim Women on Faith, Feminism, Sexuality and Race, edited by MARIAM KHAN**

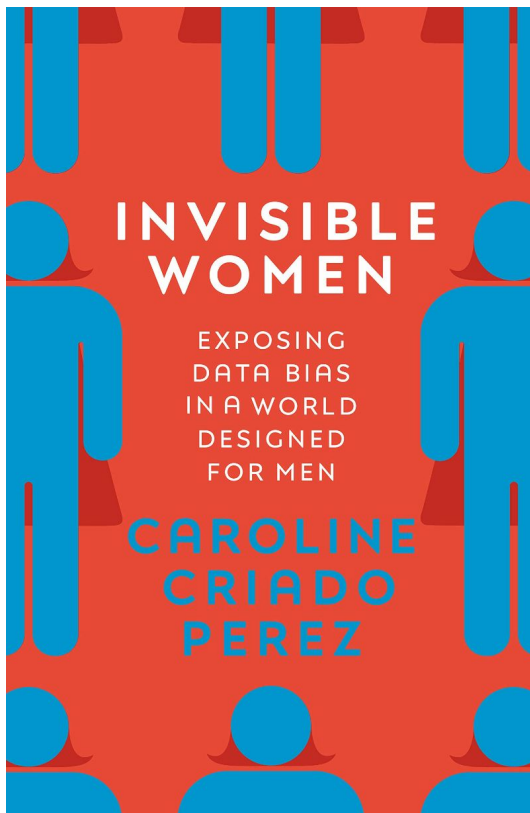
Taking one of the most politicized and misused words associated with Muslim women and Islamophobia, *It's Not About the Burqa* is poised to change all that. Here are the voices of seventeen Muslim women speaking frankly about the hijab and wavering faith, about love and divorce, about feminism, queer identity, sex... What does it mean, exactly, to be a Muslim woman in the West today? According to the media, it's all about the burqa.

© Pan Macmillan



**EDITED BY MARIAM KHAN**

'An incredibly important collection of essays that explores the pressures of being a Muslim woman today . . . passionate, angry, self-effacing, nuanced and utterly compelling in every single way'  
Nikesh Shukla, editor of *The Good Immigrant*



**Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men, by CAROLINE CRIADO-PEREZ**

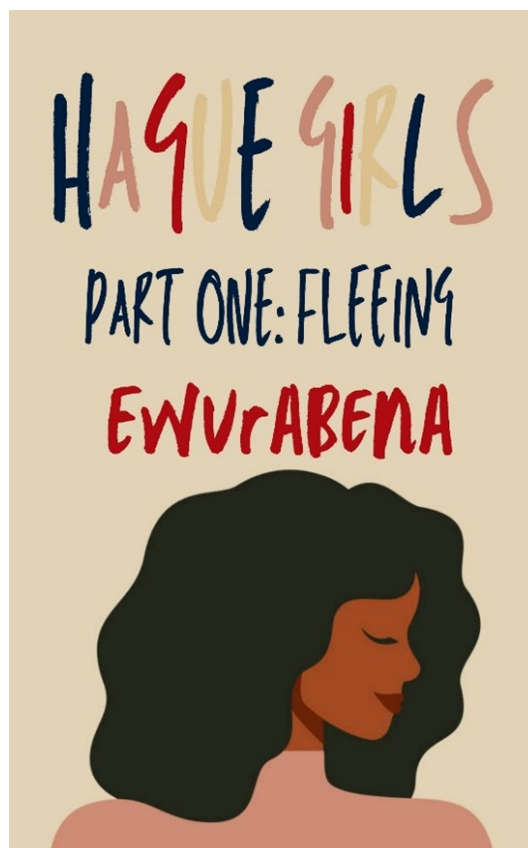
*Invisible Women* shows us how, in a world largely built for and by men, we are systematically ignoring half the population. It exposes the gender data gap- a gap in our knowledge that is at the root of perpetual, systemic discrimination against women, and that has created a pervasive but invisible bias with a profound effect on women's lives. From government policy and medical research, to technology, workplaces, urban planning and the media, *Invisible Women* reveals the biased data that excludes women.

© Penguin Publishing

**Hague Girls Part One: Fleeing, by EWURABENA**

Ewurabena has created the Hague Girls Series, telling untold stories of intersectional discrimination in a globalised world. The stories are based on her experiences, observation of incidents and recollection of events in her three decades of work as a human rights and international justice lawyer. The first in the series is her story, *Hague Girls Part 1: Fleeing*.

**Stay Tuned!**



Your comments are most welcome. Click [here](#) to comment.

**To support the cause of AFLA, please click donate.**



Become a fan of Africa Legal Aid on [Facebook](#), connect with us on [LinkedIn](#),

follow us on [Twitter](#) and invite your friends to join AFLA and its worldwide community of supporters.



---

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)