

Philanthropic Innovator

Zainab Salbi Founder and CEO Women for Women International

Every once in a while a new voice emerges with the power to change the world. Zainab Salbi, activist and social entrepreneur, is such a voice. Ms. Salbi inspires and moves audiences with the passion of her personal experience as a survivor of war and her dedication to rebuilding communities after war, one woman at a time.

She has raised her voice, and thousands of women have responded to the call, to help women survivors of war rebuild their lives through her organization, Women for Women International. The Oprah Winfrey Show has featured Ms. Salbi and her organization seven times.

Time calls Women for Women International “a lifeline for women in war-torn countries” and named Ms. Salbi “innovator of the month” for her pioneering work as philanthropist. In 2007, she was selected as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Forbes gave her its 2005 Trailblazer Award. In 1995, President Clinton honored Ms. Salbi at a White House ceremony for her humanitarian work. In 2006, Women for Women International received the Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize, the world’s largest humanitarian award.

Ms. Salbi survived the bombs and lies of living in the shadow of Saddam Hussein. She writes about those terrifying years in her memoir, *Between Two Worlds: Escape from Tyranny: Growing Up in the Shadow of Saddam* (Gotham, 2005). She escaped Iraq and through adversity, began to help other women whose lives had been torn apart by war. Her personal story inspires; her passion moves. Her most recent book, *The Other Side of War: Women’s Stories of Survival and Hope* (National Geographic, 2006) chronicles the stories of women who overcome the horrors of war and rebuild their families and countries.

Since Ms. Salbi founded Women for Women International in 1993, tens of thousands of women have joined a quiet but strong movement to help women survivors of war and civil strife to rebuild their lives. One by one, 93,000 women survivors of war have begun to and contribute to the political and economic health of their societies. Salbi has dedicated her life to the belief that stronger women build stronger nations.