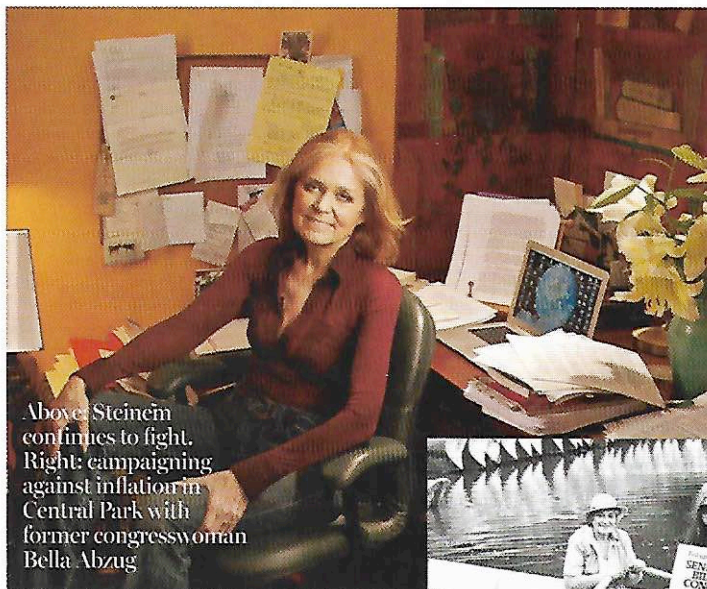


GLORIA STEINEM ON...

As her memoir hits shelves this month, writer, activist, international feminist icon (and our new best friend) *Gloria Steinem* shares her words of wisdom



Above: Steinem continues to fight. Right: campaigning against inflation in Central Park with former congresswoman Bella Abzug

...what feminism looks like today.

'Now we know that we're not crazy, but the system is crazy, it means we can use our energy to create change rather than feel guilty or wrong. From deaths caused by female infanticide to FGM, to sexualised violence in war zones, for the first time there are fewer women on earth than men.'

...Amy Schumer.

'I love Amy! I went to see *Trainwreck* and it breaks boundaries. It suddenly dawned on me that this was the first time I'd ever seen a film that was so hypersexualised, without feeling endangered. She wrote it, she's in control of it, and I understood that [as a woman] I wasn't going to be humiliated by it.'

...why humour can be a feminist's best friend.

'It's so relevant that feminists like Amy are using humour. Laughter is the only free emotion we



have. You can compel fear, you can even compel love if someone is kept isolated, but you can't compel laughter. It's vital that women are free to laugh and create laughter.'

...women who feel there's no longer a fight left to fight.

'It means they have lower standards. Are they as safe on the street as a man? Is there anywhere in the world where women average the same pay at work as men? I doubt it.'

So the feeling that the movement is not needed is only more proof that it is. It means that we've absorbed the culture of female inferiority, and now think of it as inevitable.'

...how our views change with age.

'Most young women haven't experienced much discrimination. If you're a student, you're being treated with more equality than you ever will, because you're paying. But until you've lived more, had children or entered the workforce, you haven't experienced discrimination. Women tend to be conservative when they're young and more rebellious when they're older, as we lose power with age. Men, on the other hand, get more conservative as they age. For decades I've had this vision of leading an army of grey-haired women taking over the earth!'

Interview by Eleni Kyriacou

My Life On The Road by Gloria Steinem (£14.99, Oneworld) is out now.

Wonder Woman



RIA SHARMA
23, founder of *Make Love Not Scars*, New Delhi

My inspiration

'I was making a documentary at university about acid-attack victims, and I went to meet one of the women at a hospital in Bangalore. There were hardly any amenities – patients were literally being left there to die.'

My motivation

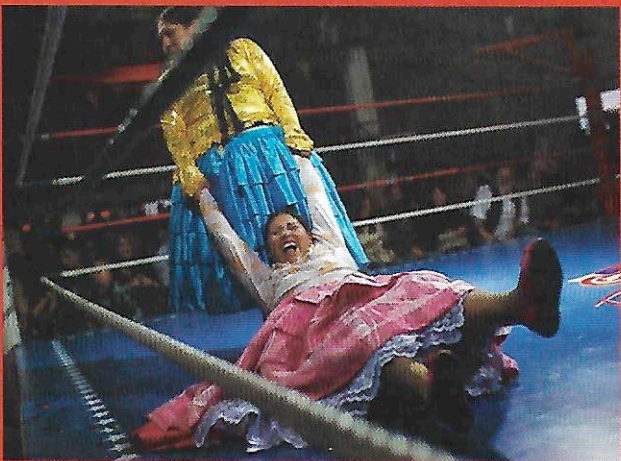
'It is suggested there are 1,000 attacks each year, but I presume the actual number is a lot higher. Most girls don't report the crimes because they're committed by a family member or husband. The care is not expensive, but they don't even have £5 a day to live on.'

My highlights

'Last year, we raised \$50,000 [£32,800] to send one survivor to university, and our viral video featuring victim Reshma Qureshi was another brilliant step.'

My goal

'In India, there is a lot of social stigma around acid attacks – people don't understand disfigurement. We're fundraising to set up a treatment centre in New Delhi – I want these women to be completely rehabilitated so they can be independent again.' ■
makeovenotscars.org



SAY HELLO TO THE FIGHTING CHOLITAS

These Bolivian wrestlers, Yenny (left) and Leonor (right), think nothing of dressing up and getting dirty in the ring. Previously a derogatory term for indigenous Aymara women, 'Cholitas' have broken through the discrimination and regularly show their strength by wrestling, proving they're a powerful force to be reckoned with. We're not arguing.