

## NORMA SWENSON, MPH

Norma Swenson is one of the early organizers of the global women's health movement, and has worked with colleagues throughout the US and across the world to help define and create the field known as Women and Health. She served as co-author and/or co-editor for most editions of the international women, health and sexuality guide, *Our Bodies, Ourselves, OBOS*, first published by the Boston Women's Health Book Collective [BWHBC].

Now known as *Our Bodies, Ourselves* [OBOS], the non-profit recently marked its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and is featured in Mary Dore's 2015 acclaimed documentary, "She's Beautiful When She's Angry." Translated or adapted into more than 26 languages through the initiative of local groups of women around the world, *OBOS* books have sold more than five million copies in all languages, including Braille; new translations or adaptations into other languages continue to emerge... A BWHBC Co-Founder, Norma was a Senior Staff member and the organization's first Director of International Programs until 1998. She served for several years as BWHBC President and was also a contributing author to editions of the popular guide: *Ourselves Growing Older: Women Aging with Knowledge and Power*, produced in collaboration with the BWHBC, as well as the first ever multi-lingual "Guide to Women and Health" activism, co-published with ISIS International Geneva in 1980

An early leader in the maternity care reform movement, Norma is also a Past President of the ICEA [International Childbirth Education Association] and of BACE [The Boston Association for Childbirth Education]. Originally a community organizer around maternity care, Ms. Swenson has now visited and worked with women's and community groups on multiple public health issues in most regions of the global South as well as in industrialized countries. A practitioner of advocacy, she sustains ongoing links with activist individuals and networks coming out of participation in the UN Decade of Women, the UN Human Rights Conference, and through consultations with WHO and major foundations. Norma Swenson is an internationally recognized leader and expert in Reproductive Health, Sexual Health and Rights, Maternal and Child Health, and Health and Human Rights. She has won numerous awards, locally, nationally, and globally. Norma also served on the board of COVOL Uganda...A graduate of Tufts University, Norma Swenson earned her MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health in Health Services Administration and Health Law, studied Medical Sociology at Tufts, and then won a Danforth Foundation Fellowship to work with the critical Sociologist Irving Zola at Brandeis University

Professor Swenson has been teaching "Women, Health, and Development" from a global perspective in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Dept at HSPH, arguably the first and longest-running women and health course at Harvard University. While at Harvard she served on the HSPH Alumni Council, and is a founding member and former Faculty in the Concentration on Women, Gender, and Health [WGH]. Norma is also an Affiliate of the Women Gender & Sexuality program at Harvard's Faculty of Arts & Sciences, and a member of the Group on Reproductive Health and Rights at the Harvard Center for Population and Development. Norma Swenson is also a Board Member at Refuge Place, a community based maternity clinic serving rural women in Liberia, near the Ebola epidemic epicenter. Currently she gives guest lectures and works with a variety of students on wide-ranging Independent Study projects at Harvard, as well as consulting with non-profits, community groups and university programs in the US and abroad. Norma recently co-taught an interdisciplinary course, "Gender, Health, and Marginalization," at MIT's Graduate Consortium of Women's Studies. With leading activists Marlene Fried and Susan Yanow on April 18 2017 she organized and participated in the MIT Day of Action panel on the future of abortion.

Working Travel: *Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Czech Republic, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Egypt, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, The Philippines, Thailand, and Uganda. Also: Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Western Europe -- Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, & Switzerland.*