



# Advocacy in Conflict: Critical Perspectives on Transnational Activism

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For better or for worse, many high-profile celebrities and companies have become vocal advocates for causes in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. *Advocacy in Conflict* explores the consequences of these popular culture advocacy strategies, which often compromise the integrity of the cause in pursuit of prominence and influence.

Examining the impact of western mass culture advocates, *Advocacy in Conflict* evaluates the successes and failures of advocacy campaigns and offers constructive criticism of ongoing efforts. Alex de Waal uses high-profile case studies, such as campaigns related to democracy, human trafficking, disability rights, and land rights to challenge the assumptions and agendas that advocacy organizations perpetuate.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

“Anyone who wants to understand the complex, ambiguous, and often neglected nature of international activism must read this informative and readable book. Through a series of fascinating case studies the book illustrates the upsides and downsides of international engagement with local campaigns in some of the most difficult places in the world.”

(Mary Kaldor, London School of Economics and Political Science)

“This timely and sobering volume asks the critical question: What is the price of success? In a series of compelling cases taken from the recent past, we see how Western activists are often co-opted, or forced to compromise on their founding goals, taking them further and further away from what might truly help those who are supposed to benefit from their activism.”

(Michael Barnett, author of *The Empire of Humanity: A History of Humanitarianism*)

“Alex de Waal and his students have assembled a fascinating group of thinkers and doers to dissect transnational advocacy in the twenty-first century.”

(Robert Muggah, author of *No Refuge and Relocation Failures in Sri Lanka*)

“Based on a series of insightful case studies, *Advocacy in Conflict* brilliantly explores the contradictory pressures on transnational advocacy. Essential reading for any thoughtful conflict advocate.”

(Duncan Green, Senior Strategic Adviser, Oxfam GB, and author of *From Poverty to Power*)

“These eye-opening studies tell us so much about the way the Western lens distorts the world's realities. George Clooney should read it from cover to cover.”

(Peter Gill, author of *Famine and Foreigners*)

#### About the Author

**Alex de Waal** is one of the foremost experts on Sudan and the Horn of Africa and executive director of the World Peace Foundation.

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