

# **Together, creating a better world**

**A handbook for community work  
to end gender discrimination**

*Written and compiled by Jim Gurnett*

*Introduction by Satya Brata Das*

**International Association of Citizens for a Civil Society**

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## Welcome and thank you

On behalf of the International Association of Citizens for a Civil Society and its major initiative, Daughters Day, we are happy to invite you to this handbook. Citizens for a Civil Society is dedicated to human rights, providing the practical foundation on which all of us live our daily lives. Daughters Day was developed both to provide a way to celebrate the vital importance of women in every aspect of our lives and to challenge those places and situations where there is discrimination or abuse that limits women from being able to fully pursue their goals and dreams.

It has been a powerful experience to see the energy and insights as nearly 200 women came together for conversations about how to end gender discrimination. They did not talk about academic concepts but about what is really happening in their daily lives. And from those conversations, we have sought to assemble a guide that will be easy to use, that is about the things everyday people can do in their own communities and families. It is a project that is more than a printed book as it offers an on-line opportunity for those who use it to offer more input and keep the work alive. We are humble in making this available with the hope it will contribute to making Alberta even more a province where every woman can participate in every area of life without restrictions or dangers.

In addition to the women who gathered for the conversations and the six women who shared their lives in deeper detail, this book is only possible because of excellent, respectful and enthusiastic work by those who facilitated and recorded the conversations — Kaylin Betteridge, Marie-Rose Bukuba, Audrey Gaulty, Magda Guevera, Bobo Jiro, Esther Numfor, Angelica Quesada, Robby Shearer, and Bridget Stirling.

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The artwork is by Roger Garcia, and staff at Edmonton Public Library provided the bibliography of children's reading. The major funder of this handbook and the conversations is the Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund of the Government of Alberta, and we are deeply grateful for the support of this body to make the whole project possible.

Mita Das

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