

PREFACE

This small book is a call for transformation. Transformation of mindsets and behaviours. Transformation is the way we gaze at others close or far away, starting with the neighbours with whom we share our small crowded tip of the Eurasian continent. It is also the product of trans-European friendships. We all three are somewhat hybrid women, whom the philosopher Anthony Appiah would call rooted cosmopolitans. Between us, we cover seven European languages and almost as many nationalities. We may yet qualify as citizens of the world but we also believe that struggles for recognition start at home. We hope that the story we tell in the following pages might contribute to the slaughtering of one of our worse European demons: demonisation.

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