

Acknowledgments

ALL BOOKS ARE THE RESULT of a long gestation. *Faith in Rights* is no exception. Seeds for this project were planted more than twenty years ago. My work at the United Nations when the Human Rights Council was just being created and conversations with former colleagues about the importance of NGOs' participation in international human rights forums were formative. I thank my UN colleagues and friends for their insights, especially Bernadette Piérard-Pasquier for her kindness and support over the years. These seeds continued to grow with conversations I had while conducting research with activists fighting headscarf bans in Turkey and France. I am grateful to these activists for sharing why they considered it essential to contribute to multilateral discussions. These interventions for them carried the possibility of crafting and transforming the contours of human right norms. In many ways, *Faith in Rights*' impetus has been to explore how this crafting unfolds and who can participate in it.

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What I tell you, therefore, I tell through the prism of my own understanding, undoubtedly. No storyteller is completely objective. But I have always tried to grasp every story through diverse angles, shifting perspectives, conflicting narratives. Truth is a rhizome—an underground plant stem with lateral shoots. You need to dig deep to reach it and, once unearthed, you have to treat it with respect. (Shafak, 2021, 189)

I am indebted to the wisdom of this tree that has shaped how I chose to write and organize this book.

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