PREFA E

This volume results from the International Conference on Religion, Violence and Visions for Peace that was organised at the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague in May 2001 under the auspices of the Chair in Religion, Human Rights and Social Change. The revised and edited lectures were complemented with a number of commissioned papers that provide further insight into the subject matter. The editors are grateful to all authors for their valuable contribution.

The book focusses on the ‘Abrahamic’ religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. An additional chapter on Buddhism highlights the comprehensive vision of this religious tradition in the field of peacebuilding. The volume opens with an exploration of religion as a source of conflict on the one hand, and as a resource for peace on the other. In conformity with the aims and objectives of the original Conference the book discusses the transformative role of religion in situations of violent conflict, particularly exploring ways in which religion – or religions – may contribute to transforming conflict into peace.

The book aims at a wide international readership that includes both academics and non-academics. Consequently, the present volume also has a separate section containing documentary resources on religion, violence and peace.

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The Editors
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