The truth is that we are not yet free... We have not taken the final step of our journey, but the first step on a longer and even more difficult road. For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.

Nelson Mandela
Kubzarsky—truly made the initiative both possible and far richer than it would have been without them.

As most people who have attempted this could tell you, pulling together a volume that spans regions and disciplines in a meaningful way turns out in the end to be far more work than you can ever imagine when undertaking the project. This project never would have been possible without the support and humor of close friends and family throughout.

Whatever nation you live in, if you read this book, you must already have decided that you care about people in parts of the world other than your own. Raised by parents whose commitments were both deep and wide-ranging—and who allowed nazir to be—I had lived as a student in France, Iran, and Kenya, and worked in Tanzania and Mexico before Jim and I were married. He had been raised on a more local horizon but rapidly went global—from spending a honeymoon working together in a rural hospital in Gabon to leading programs to address infectious diseases worldwide. This book is dedicated to him and to everyone—no matter what their country of origin—who cares about the quality and dignity of life of all people.

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About the Editor

Joel Heymann is Founder and Director of the Project on Global Working Families at Harvard University. This research program involves studies on the working conditions families face in five regions—North America, Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia. The project conducts in-depth studies of the impact of work and social conditions on the health and development of children, the care of the elderly and disabled, the ability of employed adults to obtain and retain work, and the ability of nations to decrease the number of families living in poverty. A member of the faculty at the Harvard School of Public Health and Harvard Medical School, Dr. Heymann is Director of Policy at the Harvard Center for Society and Health. Dr. Heymann has written extensively. Among dozens of other scholarly publications, her writing includes the recent book The Widening Gap: Why America’s Working Families Are in Jeopardy and What Can Be Done About It (Basic Books 2000, 2002 paperback). Her articles have been published in the leading academic journals of many disciplines, including Science, Pediatrics, the American Journal of Public Health, the Journal of the American Medical Association, and the American Economic Review. She has served in an advisory capacity to the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the World Health Organization, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among other organizations. Dr. Heymann received her Ph.D. in public policy from Harvard University, where she was selected in a university-wide competition as a merit scholar, and her M.D. with honors from Harvard Medical School.