This book is a more than usually collaborative project. Its origins lie in a project on discrimination and citizenship in Africa undertaken by the Open Society Justice Initiative, a project of the Open Society Institute, of whose British foundation I am an employee. The Justice Initiative conceived the idea of a continent-wide ‘Africa citizenship audit’ focusing on the use and abuse of Africa’s citizenship laws for political purposes, and on the discrimination and injustice that results. The country studies included in this book are based in part on the national research carried out for the Africa citizenship audit to survey the law and practice on equality, minority rights, nationality, refugees and treatment of migrants in fourteen African countries.

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As part of this work, citizenship laws were also collected from most of Africa’s countries, and a separate publication by the Open Society Institute, *Citizenship Law in Africa: A Comparative Study* (2009), provides detailed analysis of these laws. A key conclusion of the audit research and consultations was the necessity for clarification and strengthening of African norms on citizenship, and for national citizenship laws to be brought into line with human rights standards.