Preface

This book has been a winding journey towards 10 propositions about how violence cascades and why it matters to understand this. Initially, John Braithwaite’s collaboration with Bina D’Costa was to complete the coding of a Peacebuilding Compared case study for the Chittagong Hill Tracts. John learnt that Bina was deeply knowledgeable about Bangladesh, having been born and educated there before she moved to study in the United States. Hers was a Partition family, while members of the family remained in India, her parents made Bangladesh home, and her relatives lived in Pakistan. She speaks and understands several of the South Asian languages, including Bengali, Hindi and Urdu. She had done extensive prior research in Sri Lanka, worked in Nepal and then became a researcher of the entire South Asian region’s politics.

As we worked together, the appeal of a study of cascades of violence across South Asia became increasingly compelling. We enjoyed our fieldwork bond and each acquired a respect for the complementary disciplinary skills of the other—Bina as a regional politics and international relations scholar of South Asia and John as a comparative criminologist of violence and a scholar of interdisciplinary peacebuilding. Each also acquired a fondness and admiration for the family of the other in supporting us in our research together. Our love and appreciation go to those beautiful, long-suffering families.

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