

Vatsala has tirelessly edited the work in spite of burdening time schedules and Bharati has made the text come alive, giving a face to the words and life to the letters. Thank you, Vatsala and Bharati, for being there to enrich my efforts once again.

Finally, I wish to thank Kanwal, my husband, for encouraging me in every step that I took which led to my involvement with issues of gender and HIV/AIDS that culminated with this book. He restored my faith in humanity when I was losing it, and provided the courage I needed to understand and absorb the injustices, trials and tribulations that make human life different and yet so meaningful.

*Madhu Bala Nath*

## **Foreword**

The toll of both the statistics and devastation that HIV/AIDS is taking around the world can leave us feeling hopeless and helpless. That is why this publication "*Voices from Tragedy to Hope*" can assist us all. It demonstrates the immense gains for everyone that can result from the force of human will and, in particular, the empowerment of those affected with HIV/AIDS when actively involved in solutions to fighting this pandemic. We are only beginning to recognize the huge gender issues within HIV/AIDS. By better understanding these forces, we can collectively begin to address the pandemic more effectively. This publication helps us in that quest.

The Commonwealth Secretariat has as one of its most important priorities the global fight against HIV/AIDS. We are honoured to work with the author, Madhu Bala Nath and the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on the promotion of this publication that will help us all in this urgent quest.

*Nancy Spence*  
*Director, Gender and Youth Affairs Division*