In *Human Rights From Below*, Jim Ife shows how human rights and community development are problematic terms but powerful ideals, and that each is essential for understanding and practising the other. Ife contends that practitioners – advocates, activists, workers and volunteers – can better empower and protect communities when human rights are treated as more than just a specialist branch of law or international relations, and that human rights can be better realised when community development principles are applied.

The book offers a long overdue assessment of how human rights and community development are invariably interconnected. It highlights how critical it is to understand the two as a basis for thinking about and taking action to address the serious challenges facing the world in the twenty-first century.

Written for students, community development and human rights workers, *Human Rights From Below* brings together the important fields of human rights and community development, to enrich our thinking of both.

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Human Rights from Below

Achieving rights through community development

Jim Ife
Contents

Acknowledgements  page vii
Introduction  1

Part 1: Thinking about community development
Chapter 1: Definitions and imperatives of community development  9
Chapter 2: Principles and dimensions of community development  29

Part 2: Thinking about human rights
Chapter 3: Definitions and imperatives of human rights  69
Chapter 4: Principles and dimensions of human rights  84

Part 3: Bringing human rights and community development together
Chapter 5: Principles of human rights from below  123

Part 4: Enacting human rights from below
Chapter 6: Seven arenas of human rights from below  157
Chapter 7: Practising human rights from below  200

Appendix: The human rights matrix  235
References  242
Index  251
The Writer of a Book can claim little credit for ‘new ideas’. There are very few new ideas, but rather many old ones that are continually recycled, refined and put together in new ways. I am acutely aware of an intellectual debt to many people for the ideas in this book. As well as the cited references, there are other people who are too numerous to name, and many of whom have been half-forgotten, whose work is reflected here. Former students, colleagues and friends have made significant contributions to my thinking about community development and human rights over the years, and to this attempt to bring together these two areas that have for long been abiding concerns of mine, both intellectually and practically.

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Jim Ife
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