

This remarkable fourth volume of the International PEN Women Writers' Committee anthology *Our Voice* continues the tradition of bringing to its readers a world of women's writing.

The works in Spanish, French and English are either written in the original language of the writer or translated into one of these three languages. They are from every corner of the earth and offer a wide variety of styles and points of view.

The anthology includes award winning poetry from Kenya to India with Muthoni Likimani's 'Crying for my Mother' and Sampurna Chatterji's 'No Shape is More Constant'. Short stories by Mariela Baeva – a member of the European parliament from Bulgaria, and Morelle Smith of Scotland and Iranian Azar Mahloujian living in exile in Sweden to mention just a few. The forty authors and poets whose work is here presented give an idea of the sensibility of women writers in the 140 PEN centres across the globe.

I am very proud to be the editor of this volume. Having begun my period as Chair of the Women Writers' Committee with editing the enormously successful Volume 3, I am now fortunate enough to be in my second (and last term) and editing Volume 4. It is always a privilege to present women's work, but never more so than when the work is excellent and compelling.

I hope you enjoy reading this collection as much as I have.

My thanks to Íride Rossi de Fiori of Biblioteca de Textos Universitarios for publishing *Our Voice* and Lucina Kathmann for supporting the publication. Lucina has been involved in *Our Voice* from the start and plays a key role in its production.

Dr Judith Buckrich
Chair of the Women Writers' Committee
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