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Cover design: Mo Hersi  
Photo cover: Pepeditss  
Layout: Wolk Ontwerp, Haarlem  
Translated by: Wim Beunderman  
Editing: Annet Sabandar  
ISBN: 9789464186758

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**The integration course for  
~~white~~ people**

**GUIDEBOOK**

Mo Hersi

# The integration course for ~~white~~ people

This book is unique. It is a guidebook filled with questions that help you to get to know people, with personal anecdotes and also with some empty pages. I wrote this book because I feel that no one, neither black nor white or anything in between, should have to take an integration course. The reader is free to give their own interpretation. With this book you can form your own views and share these with others, for instance, someone who you do not know yet, enabling you to start a dialogue on integration. Please use it as a guidebook for having a cup of coffee or tea with someone and having an open-minded conversation with them while showing mutual respect, in order to learn more about each other's culture. This is the kind of conversation in which we can find each other and connect.

Some people in the Netherlands might be offended by the title of this book: *The integration course for ~~white~~ people*, especially the term 'white' people instead of 'colourless' people (in Dutch: blanke mensen). The Dutch term 'blank' has a negative and colonial connotation. In the Dutch 'Golden Age', people wanted to point out the difference between superior people and inferior people. 'Blank' emphasized the lack of colour. It equalled clean and pure, as opposed to black and savage (source: book *Hallo witte mensen*). This is my reason for choosing the word 'white'. I am aware that not every reader will be happy with this.

Nevertheless, I want to inspire you to expand your social circle with at least 10 new people in the coming year who you would normally never meet or speak to. For instance, you can do voluntary work or join a walking group. Whatever you do, step out of your comfort zone. When you have done this, please ask each other the questions in the *The integration course for ~~white~~ people* guidebook each time

you meet someone new and note down your experiences on the empty pages after each question. At the end of this year, the empty pages in this book will be filled with new experiences, personal stories and special new connections.

I invite you to share your experiences with me after reading the book. You can read more about that later on in the book.

For now, I hope you make many wonderful and inspiring new connections.

