

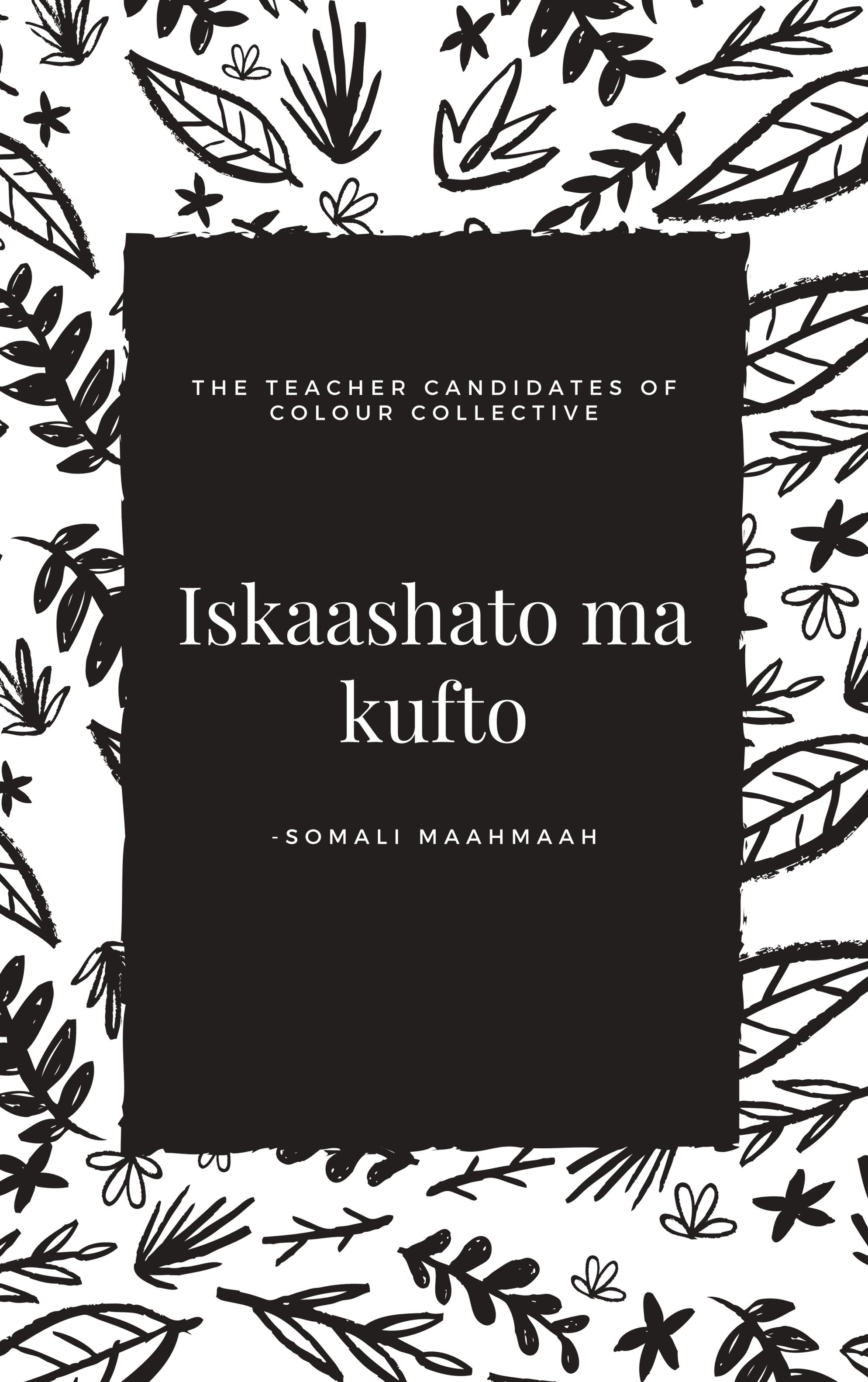
STRONGER TOGETHER

BY HODA AHMED

Speaking and working with my fellow TCCs on a nearly daily basis for two years has changed me; they have taught me more than the Teacher Education program ever could. Their encouragement, support and friendship sustained me throughout this journey. It is very difficult for me to describe in words how they have enriched me. Now that we're physically apart, I'm still coming to terms with how much I have relied on them.

The collective was born out of a need to create space for us to be our authentic selves. I was able to say things and experience without judgement, my feelings were valued. We came together without ever establishing a hierarchy or individual roles, everyone of us contributed and carried what we could. Like any relationships, ours wasn't without its challenges, but what was unique was how we resolved them through consensus. I'm reminded of the Somali mahmah (saying): Iskaashato ma kufto: If people support each other they do not fall.

Together we have done more than I could've imagined. I must admit that the idea of the TCC made me nervous; I knew that we might not be tolerated or very possibly face equity detours, but knowing I wasn't alone sustained me. We laugh now at how when the resolve and emotions of one or two of us faltered, the determination and strength of the other members rose and propelled the entire collective forward. I know no matter where we end up individually, we will forever be connected and we will continue our community together.



THE TEACHER CANDIDATES OF
COLOUR COLLECTIVE

Iskaashato ma kufto

- SOMALI MAAHMAAH