



**2019 REFUGEES & HUMAN RIGHTS
CHILD & YOUTH POETRY CONTEST
DIVISION 3 – GRADES 9 TO 12**

**SHARIKA EKRAM, GRADE 10
THE YORK SCHOOL
THIRD PRIZE**



HUMANS KNOW HOW TO HATE

I'm sorry
That there are people who don't want you in our country
Cause they're too scared, of:
The piece of cloth on your head,
Or the colour of your skin,
Or the way your voice sings English words
In a foreign,
Beautiful
accent.

They are scared
of Beauty.

I'm sorry
People look at you in disgust, when you walk down the street
As if you don't
"Belong"
As if *they* do.

I wish we would use our hands to shake yours, to create bridges
Instead of using them to pat you down in the interrogation room, for hours.
I wish we would decorate our country with your bravery,
And soak our minds in your hope.

I'm sorry
That there are people who persist in hatred
and still have the dignity to call themselves
Human.