



**2019 REFUGEES & HUMAN RIGHTS
CHILD & YOUTH POETRY CONTEST
DIVISION 2 – GRADES 7 TO 8**

**SAMARA GLAZER, GRADE 8
ROBBINS HEBREW ACADEMY
THIRD PRIZE**



I AM

I'm from Uganda; I'm 14 years old
Tomorrow, I was told, will be my wedding day
They say he will be kind; but I am scared, just a child

I want to stay in the protected roof of my home, but now I must leave
I want to scream but can't make a sound
Every day, I feel the ground closing in on me
My dignity to be taken against my will

I'm from India; I'm 14 years old
It is 5 am and I am waking up to go to work
The factory beckons to me despite my protests
From sunrise to sunset, my hands work endlessly; my thumbs calloused
from the needles
I made a mistake and was punished; a belt against my hands
My dreams of getting an education are washed away
I try to stay hopeful; but hope isn't enough

I'm from Canada; I'm 14 years old

I spend my days going to school and enjoying my passions

I roam the city streets with my friends, as I wish

I am privileged to fill the air around me with choice, free will and happiness

As I dream, of one day, to be an inspiring woman

Three different girls, three different lives

The cultures and beliefs separate us, yet womanhood unites us