



**2018 REFUGEES & HUMAN RIGHTS
CHILD & YOUTH POETRY CONTEST
DIVISION 3 – GRADES 9 TO 12**

**SERENA HABIB, GRADE 10
SENATOR O’CONNOR COLLEGE
SCHOOL
SECOND PRIZE**



SAFE

I cannot remember the last time
I heard a sound, spoke a word, or felt a touch.
I am numb.

I figured: Why listen, when all you hear is anguish?
Why speak, when you cannot choose your words?
Why feel, when you are trapped in frigidity?
I am gone.

Suddenly, you take me far away.
From my family whose bodies were waiting for me at home.
I am alone.

If I listen, I will not hear my mother’s laughter.
If I speak, I will not be understood.
If I feel, I will only feel the emptiness in my heart.
I am scared.

Then you stay.
Your voice, welcoming, eventually penetrates my wall.
Your house, even in winter, warms me to my toes.
I dream it is destroyed. I awake and I am still here.
I am hopeful.

One day, I hear you singing a tune I used to know.
I find myself joining in, unsteady but unafraid.
I make a snow angel in your backyard.
My imprint sparkles in the sun as I bask in it, tears filling my eyes as I realize
I am safe.