

## Celebrating the power of words and the dignity of all.

These powerful poems created by our talented #ThrivingWomen are a celebration of the power of words and the dignity of all. Through their art, they have commemorated the International Day to End Poverty 2023 and the chosen theme of #DignityForAll. They have beautifully captured what this means and have highlighted the importance of treating everyone with respect and empathy.



**Dignity**

Dignity or indignity?  
I never thought you'd ask  
the 'needy' don't get their say  
They're thought about last.

So we'll sit aside  
And hear your policies  
And ideologies  
Technicalities  
Without apologies.

**Beckie**

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**Aftermath**

You ripped up my money  
Tore it into shreds  
My worth in your eyes  
Lacked evidence  
Heart shrink  
Woollen jumper  
On a wash  
Too hot  
Single grain of rice  
Jumping in hot wok  
I didn't miss your bite  
Tigers teeth in clothing  
Bitter herbs eaten  
Past sell by date  
moth eggs laid  
Ate my heart  
Shredded in smoke

**Joyce Skinn**

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## **Changing the Narrative about Dignity to Humanity**

In a situation where you know  
That no-one is thinking of giving  
A lending of help to the less privileged  
People in the community where you are  
And the system of the government is not even helping  
The situation by putting some people in limbo  
For so many years without any outcome  
Of what is happening to them because of their background.  
Immigrants that you deprive dignity to  
Due to your governments  
Procedures that have no accountability  
To what your governments officials are doing  
By taking their dignity away from them.  
This has to be looked into to make life  
Easy for others.  
Humanity is lost in the society.  
Why is it that the poor will suffer for all their lives?  
Why will they continue to suffer?

**Dignity**

I claw at my eyes  
Thump fists at the floor  
Fire of frustration  
Can I take much more?  
My knuckles pummel the wall  
The blood runs like a river  
My skin red and raw  
The rules make me shiver  
Protected characteristics?  
Are they even real?  
I hang on the phone  
Automated voices can't feel  
My cries won't be heard  
Though I scream down the place  
I cannot help my son  
This world does not see his face

**Sue Crawford**

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**Dignity**

Pronouns she/her  
Unpaid carer  
Economically inactive  
Owns a flat screen TV  
Woke as folk

Stone hearted politicians, scum floats above  
Soaking up the sunlight  
While we shiver in the shade  
Should have worked harder  
Earn your dignity  
To pay your bills  
To keep warm  
Who paid for that sofa?  
That TV? That bed?  
The esteemed taxpayer  
The workers, not shirkers  
Why should our sweat  
Dry up your tears?  
Have you no dignity?

**Still U?**

"Sarah"

The chemist asks as I arrive again

"Still U?"

A question that rings hollow, like a bell.

Still waiting.

A single step on a list of failures, ever extending, ever ignored

A question that raises more questions.

Still unsupported.

Falling through barriers, so flimsy, that if one were to do its job,  
would more likely break my spine than my fall.

A question more complicated than the answer.

Still without direction.

Not from lack of trying, but from lack of doors to egress a life  
that most would ask is even worth

Living

A question that spreads across my face.

Still prompting further.

"Sorry, still on universal credit?"

"Ah, yes"

I take my pills and leave.

## For the Love of God

Isaiah 58, verse 7

'Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give to the poor,'  
Not with fine words and in full sight,  
But in quiet respect for the dignity  
Of those to whom you have been sent  
Share your larder, your wardrobe  
Your time and your company  
For in your actions, you honour  
The God who made you.

Matthew 25, verse 35

'I was a stranger and you welcomed me'  
Show not contempt for the foreigner  
Nor return him to the cruel seas  
Enfold him in arms of love  
So that your faith is proved in compassion  
Remember that Christ was once homeless  
Persecuted, despised, a refugee

Proverbs 31, verse 8

'Speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.'  
Hold to account the legislators  
Who set themselves apart,  
And from positions of privilege  
Lay heavy burdens on the weak,  
Stand beside them in their troubles,  
Let your voice be theirs.

Psalms 82:verse 3

'Defend the weak and the suffering.'  
This is our commission,  
To uphold people made in the image  
Of the God we claim to serve,  
If we fail, if we turn away,  
How can we say we have the love of God within us.

'Whatever you did for the least of them, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40