2nd Place: Aliyah Aziz, Age 15
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Oakville, ON

Refugees

I pray for the ones without hope, the ones with nowhere to go,
The ones who just don't know where they'll end up,
Alone, thrown to and fro, like cargo hiding in the shadows from the ammo,
Waiting for their rights to make a cameo, while worlds debating, children are suffocating,
They don't have a home so they drown in the sea foam…of a hollow society, that doesn't see them
Because…**they're just refugees**.

So many issues unaddressed, so many people being oppressed,
Kids are trying to except their own deaths, we send out one tweet and think we did our best,
We don't stress cause we can disconnect, it doesn't affect us,
And we accept the idea that…**they're just refugees.**

We want boundaries to break but we keep building walls,
We wanna end hate, but nobody's making calls,
How are we gonna come together if the locks on the stalls aren't ever gonna come off in this prison?
We don't listen because…**they're just refugees.**

Hear the children scream for their basic needs, we can't hear them plead,
We don't have the hearts to bleed, they aren't in our sights to see, we don't have the hearts to bleed
After all… **they're just refugees.**

They say it's a free country but we are all trapped in a cycle of trying to make money,
The only thing more destructive than violence is silence,
It's time for us to speak out for the ones too weak to shout,
Raise awareness and say it loud, over the sounds of silence,
We can fight for the people's rights in a war without knives.
Open your eyes, it's time to realize that unity ties us together.
Let's make an effort to help refugees from the terror,
If we stand up for these issues we can rise up together, the sun still shines no matter the weather,
If we are aware as one we can make it better, they are not **just refugees**, they are **us**, they are **we**.
They are no different from…**you and me**.