



**INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN
RIGHTS ART
MOVEMENT**



**AFRICAN HUMAN
RIGHTS SPOKEN
WORDS CONTEST**



Honorable Mention

My Gender by Lillian Sheridan Jenda, Malawi

See it [HERE](#)

Lillian Sheridan Jenda is a woman driven by a deep passion for writing, allowing her to skillfully craft poetry, lyrics, plays, speeches, and novels. Growing up between the rich cultures of Malawi and South Africa was a privilege that broadened her perspective, fostering a deeper understanding of people from diverse nations. Beyond her literary pursuits, LILLIAN is fervently dedicated to connecting with people, often reaching out to those in various locations with the resources at her disposal. Her writing journey has not only led her to create compelling pieces but has also opened doors to poetry recitations, public speaking engagements, and interviews.

MY GENDER

My politeness doesn't count
So i pin myself on the counter
Those funny names and insults
Right in my face
Provocative questions eco still in my ears
“What gender are you?”
So i sob in terror, why?

My own voice chocking me
Not so sure if i am real
Not so sure if i am going to be heard
Not so sure if i am confident enough
Drowning in self pity
Constantly asking myself if i belong
Constantly asking myself if this is home.

Societies, religion and culture
Have had me living in a fence
I seek refuge in places i cannot disclose
My soul keeps on gasping for air
So suffocated in this hiding body
How do i free it and embrace my gender?

I shout out loud
Nobody pays attention
All they hear is me mumbling
So my shoulders drop
They say I'm too dramatic
So i shut myself up
Living hopelessly
They see my eyes well
I'm left alone because they are convinced
I am seeking attention
So my gender is buried deep in within.
Because my gender isn't safe.
My gender is a taboo
My gender is a sin
My gender,
My gender doesn't exist.