

## **The Power of Silence**

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## **The Power of Silence**

My skin, my kin,  
the way I move,  
my gender, my class,  
the love I choose,  
my country, my faith,  
all a part of me, at times,  
place me in the minority.

As some steps get steeper to climb,  
who are the ones who are left behind?

The past and present may lead to further mistakes,  
but do you know whose choices, with your silence, you take?

This short poem summarizes the concept of positionality. Our race, history, ability, gender, beliefs, etc., make up our positionality and give us our power status amongst society. The political and institutional structures we support are always influencing societal dynamics, and they were built to favour the colonizers' dominant attributes. The poem asks questions that invite us to consider how we affect our community, both with our choices to act or abstain from action. Being aware of the social injustice, yet choosing not to act, in turn, supports it (Sensoy & DiAngelo, 2017; Hyland, 2010). It is through our choices that we affect minoritized communities who are being disregarded and oppressed by the current structures of power and views in place. The steps the poem speaks of are those that elevate our status and power. Whether through education, money or career, the injustice built into societal infrastructure that benefits us become what many begin to define as normal. Once these biased laws and institutions grow into the norm, it becomes more difficult to change. However, when we speak up, become activists, we can begin to reconstruct these steps to open the opportunity for a more just society.

### ***References***

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### ***Author***

*Meshelle is a third-year student in the Bachelor of Early Childhood Care and Education Degree program at Capilano University. She has a passion for inclusive education and strives to continue her education outside of academic settings to develop inclusive environments. As a student member of the EDI Action Group, she aims to use her knowledge, voice, and experiences to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion at Capilano University.*