

RACISM - It's In The Way

It's in the way you patronise
The way that you avert your eyes
The way that you cannot disguise
Your looks of horror and surprise
It's the assumptions that you make
On my behalf, and for my sake
and in the way you do not hear
The things we tell you loud and clear
It's in the way you touch my hair
The way you think, the way you stare
It's right there in your history
Just like slavery for me
It's in the language that you use
The way that you express your views
The way you always get to choose
The way we lose
It's when you say "No offence to you"
And then offend me, as you do
It's in your paper policy
Designed by you, for you, not me
It's in the power you abuse
It's on TV, it's in the news
It's in employment, in your school
The way you take me for a fool
It's in the way you change my name
The way that you deny me pain
It's in the way that you collude
to tell me it's my attitude
It's in your false democracy
It's in the chains you cannot see
It's how you talk equality
And then you put it back on me
It's in the way you get annoyed
And say I must be paranoid
It's in the way we have to fight
For basic fundamental human rights
It's in the invasion of my space
It's how you keep me in my place
It's the oppression of my race
IT'S IN MY FACE

Andrea Cork

Discussion tasks for the group

1. Can you think of any times when you have felt like the poet?
2. If you were interviewing the poet and asked her to define racism, what do you think she would say?
3. How is language an issue for the poet?
4. What do you Andrea Cork means in the lines
*It's how you talk equality
And then you put it back on me
It's in the way you get annoyed
And say I must be paranoid*
5. What do you think the poet would feel about the work that we are doing today?