Speak for “the Others”

We blame those who are easiest to blame,
we blame the weak, we blame the defenseless, we blame the minority.
we never blame ourselves, and that is a dangerous way to live.
The world is full of human-made catastrophes
and most people keep their eyes closed to these horrible happenings,
to the hunger, death, and disease of the world.
to the motherless children and childless mothers killed for nothing.
to the evil lying underneath the surface of every society
pushing for division
seeing us as Less and them as More.

See no evil, Speak no evil, Hear no evil
Close your eyes to the pain of the over 1 million Armenians, Assyrians, and Greeks of 1915,
killed by a government who saw them as nothing more than “the others”,

Cover your ears to the screams and moans of agony of 6 millions Jews and over 5 million Slavs, Roma, disabled, Jehovah’s witnesses, homosexuals, and political opponents of the Third Reich,
too many people to fit their titles on a line of paper.
killed by a man who picked them to blame
because they didn’t have blonde hair and blue eyes
didn’t believe in the same God,
prayed in different languages,
loved different people,
picked them to blame
because he needed someone to blame,
because he defined himself as “Us”
and everyone else as “Them”.

Squeeze your eyes tight, clap your hands over your ears, bite your tongue, and hum in your head.
Blind yourself to their misery and be a coward,
forgetting that they are of the same race

Human Race
We share the same ancient ancestor,
have the same roots,
and grew from the same tree, just maybe on different branches.
Open your eyes to the suffering of your people,
people who share the same ancestor,
have the same roots,
and grew from the same tree, but different branches,
making them that much more precious,
because they complete the tree of our history.
Uncover your ears and listen to the call for help coming from the around 2 million Cambodians killed in 1975 by a government who saw them as nothing more than pesky bugs, but who are their history, Past, Present, and Future, Listen to them and heed their warnings for the future, because you can’t save them from the past.

Open your mouth and speak for the 800,000 Tutsis and Hutus killed in Rwanda in 100 days, Cut down by machetes for having different features, killed by extremists who couldn’t see their Past, Present, and Future in those they were slaying, killing future doctors, lawyers, heroes their elders, children, and parents, their people, because they saw them as “the Other”

Speak out to honor the 100,000 people killed in Bosnia killed to “cleanse” the world of them when their murderers only soaked the Earth with their blood.

Speak for the 300,000 Darfuri citizens killed by people who saw them as the Other, like millions of others.

Speak for all the millions of people. killed for being the other that doesn’t exist. Speak because if you don’t speak for them, who will speak for you? Speak because they are you, the same ancestors, come from the same roots, growing from the same tree, but on a different branch.

Speak out like MLK, speaking words of poetry and wisdom, words that Ghandi inspired. Speak the words of those who work to recognize genocide. Speak the words of those who help survivors learn to live without that fear. Speak the words of people who stood up in the thicket of tragedy, who said “no” to tragedy, who worked for the people behind awful things, and said “no” to the face of tragedy and horror.
Speak of the people who protected those in persecution
who found spaces in their homes to hide children from the horrors outside
who helped move everyone to safety that they could.

Speak the words of the people who knew that those who are easiest to blame,
those who blame the minority that doesn’t exist,
are never to blame.

Speak for the “others” that never really existed
and those who opened their eyes, uncovered their ears, and opened their mouths
Against the people who saw their own as nothing more than
“The Other”.