Stand By

Millions dead in the genocides that have taken place In the world; a disaster caused by those who fail to see That diversity is good, and discriminate because of race, Or religion - If they did, these atrocities would not be.

We are startled at how many they succeeded to kill How, we ask was it possible? Why did they get so far? We listen horrified, thunderstruck, scandalized, but still Another question is itching our minds, like an internal scar

Why did we let it happen? Why did we not do more? We know there are enough of us who can see that it is wrong Because afterwards we are shocked by the terror and deplore The perpetrators and claim that together we are too strong.

But happen again it does, and we find out too late Condemnation cannot reverse the many lives lost And subject to such a brutal, inexcusable fate. Realisation dawns on us slowly like an icy frost

Creeping up our bodies. We are able to understand
Why people decided to let history take its course
Not interfering, not fighting, not taking a stand
Holding themselves back by choice, rather than by force.

It is easier to protect their families that way
Certainly that is a very valid excuse!
After all, they are only humans shielding themselves, I say.
And now I think, those motives are not so abstruse

One of the most powerful, terrible weapons of genocide Is because of human nature, and the perpetrators know That they can do as they please and fear will make us abide And become bystanders, watching over the pain many undergo.

By Anisha Mehta 14 years old