



**We are
Called**

TO HEAL. TO UNITE. TO JUSTICE.

Team Reflection: Huddle

No. 1: Merging Mercy with Might

Inaugural National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman inspired the nation with her poetry at President Joe Biden's inauguration. Weeks later, she was tailed by a security guard walking home. The guard questioned where she lived and commented, "You look suspicious." Gorman showed her keys and buzzed herself into her building.

Such overt and skeptical questioning of Gorman's belonging in a particular place is experienced in countless ways by black, brown and ethnic minorities regularly. It may be an undercutting remark, cold shoulder, a sneer or a disapproving glance. Research shows how these experiences activate defensive instincts unleashing stress hormones at toxic levels and compromising systems in the body. [1.1]

Reflecting on how the guard perceived her as a threat on the street, Gorman wrote, "In a sense, he was right. I AM A THREAT: a threat to injustice, to inequality, to ignorance. Anyone who speaks the truth and walks with hope is an obvious and fatal danger to the powers that be." [1.2]

Consider

Think of one thing you can do in the work and ministry you do here today, to leave it behind a little better than when you started the day or the week?

Let us pray together using Amada Gorman's words,

*If we merge mercy with might,
and might with right,
then love becomes our legacy
and change our children's birthright
So let us leave behind a country
better than the one we were left with ...*

[1] <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/11/11/562623815/scientists-start-to-tease-out-the-subtler-ways-racism-hurts-health>

[1.2] See Amanda Gorman's social media profile and post:
<https://twitter.com/theamandagorman/status/1368016803553710082?s=21>