

Winning poetry
submission for the
**2024 Modern Slavery
and Human Trafficking
Awareness
Ontario Division
Poetry Contest**

**Empowering Women
Category**

UNAPOLOGIZE

by Christina Bulgin

Sister

The time has come
to unapologize
disentangle from shame
long gripped, intertwined
speak boldly in the whole voice that is you
occupy your full space
throw off encumberments
imposed by self and others
and in freedom to shine brightly
the light that you have learned to dim
except in moments
implanted by the Light of the World

Cup that spark with tender hands
and breathe it to flame
Wild and wonderful you
break out from the endless circle of motion
ebbs and flows of truth and perception

Raise your voice fearlessly
to Jehovah Rapha
Restorer of Souls
He releases shackles of expectation
and decorum
The courage of the Lion of the
Tribe of Judah
courses in your veins
declaring you are the daughter
of the King

Dance freely, a radiance of
colour, purest joy of your
Creator
long hidden in limiting closets
in cavernous recesses
emerge as rays of sunlight
breaching forest ceiling
tendrils of warmth
reaching down to deepest roots
firm in their Life-Giving Foundation

Created for such a time as this
you are glorious
you are unbound
you are beautiful
Go ahead and unapologize

Provided with permission within the framework of ethical storytelling.