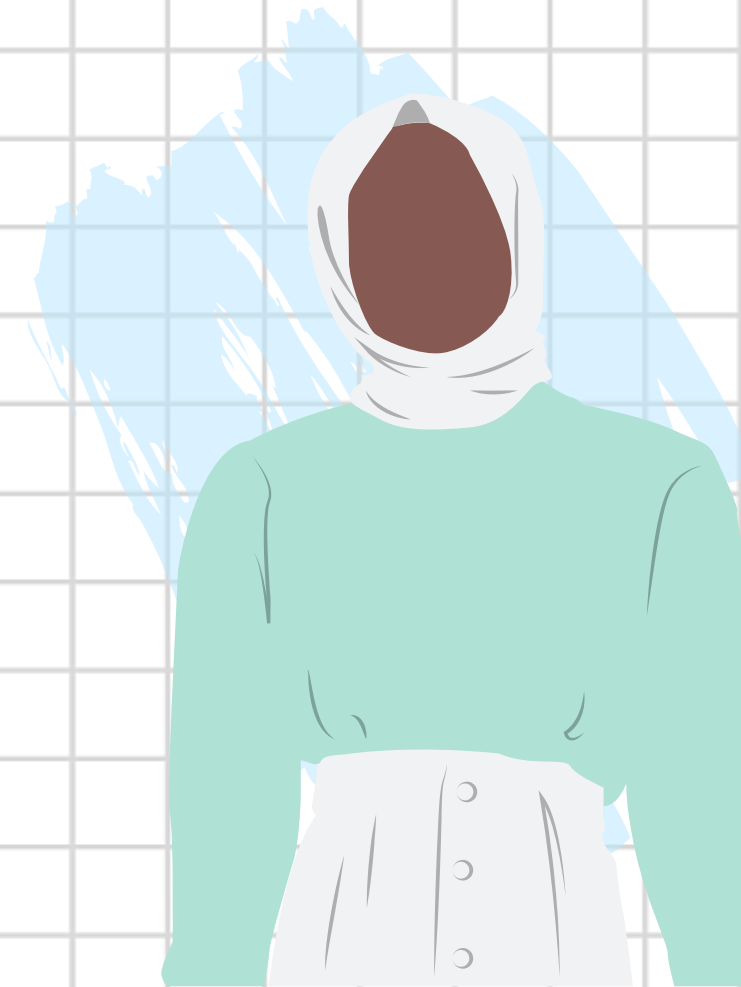


# Words from the WELL



## TWC Norms

- Be curious
- Engage fully
- What shared here, stays here
- Expect non-closure and accept discomfort
- Listen as if you might be wrong
- Love is at the center



## Dear Black Women by Heven Ambachew

With strength and resiliency,  
Hair that defies gravity  
Aesthetics of gold radiate from within your,  
Rich melanin  
Your existence a delightful phenomenon

Bending without breaking  
Bleeding without dying  
Self-love without harm  
Versatile and drippin' honey,  
You move mountains

From back ended compliments  
Constantly living under attack  
Loving yourself; a political act

.. "you're pretty for a black girl"  
.. "are you mixed with anything?"  
.. "i don't date black girls"  
.. "too smart for a black girl"

As if your blackness is too bold  
As if it would be better cooled off and watered down  
No, this is black, no suga, no additives

Now, you want a mouth full  
of my culture  
; home grown and organic  
Feasting ,  
Draining me of that which comes with my faith,  
My skin  
My body

no longer can we sit in the shadows  
no longer will we accept what they say  
Remember you are royalty  
Dark eyes,  
thick thighs  
No more apologies

You are a whole movement  
You are worth the conversation  
Take up your space queen;  
Be unapologetic

You are a whole movement  
You are worth the conversation  
Take up your space queen;  
Be unapologetic

Aiyana stanley-jones  
Tarika  
Tanisha Anderson

Say their names..  
Shout them ..  
Scream ..  
Let your words echo and shake the foundations of this system  
A violent system  
A white system..  
dismantle this structure

Remember  
Honor  
but do not weep sisters  
For there is still hope

Reclaim your time through your words, your stories  
We can no longer be a bridge for those that do not wipe their feet  
before entering our homes

## Because if i don't write by jessica Care moore

Because if i don't write  
my body will finally cave  
or i will evaporate.

Because if i don't write  
black girls won't know i left  
them a trail of tears  
to find themselves  
So they can get lost again  
& one day

find me.

Because if i don't write  
Someone will say Sylvia Plath and  
Emily Dickinson did not shit on a toilet or  
ever go outside.

Ntozake Shange will never discover  
rainbows  
Maya Angelou won't ever speak  
And I will have to convince myself  
That a man who is 5'6" can actually date me.

Keep Writing!!!!

Because if i don't write  
My fingers may fall off  
or my tea  
Kettle may melt &  
lose its defiant whistle or the  
Detroit Pistons  
Would have never moved  
back downtown

Because if i don't write  
You will write for me  
tell historians black girls were  
crazy  
invisible  
lost in time

Wishing to turn our bodies inside out  
Becoming unrecognizable to our own mother  
Desecrate our faces  
because we hated our own  
mirrors

Because if i don't write  
There will never be a super heroine named  
Salt who will save the future by her ability to  
see herself  
in  
it.

Because if i don't write  
I will like in fear  
die with hope

Never laugh fight or dream  
just cope.

Because if i don't write  
You will write me off  
Or academically erase me

I know.

Prophets Have Died  
for PhD's

I write to live  
to prove to black girls everywhere  
we are possible

& the world we created with one  
Kemetich push

belongs to us  
too.

