



# WARRIOR

WORDS BY

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*THE CONSTANT BATTLE BETWEEN* HAVING TO MINIMISE WHO I AM AND TAKE UP SPACE WHILST ALSO HAVING TO BE 10 TIMES BETTER TO EVEN GET THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES.

THE NEED TO BE A WARRIOR TO MANOEUVRE THROUGH SITUATIONS IN LIFE THAT CREATE AN INTERSECTION BETWEEN MY GENDER AND IDENTITY, RACIALISED CONTINUOUSLY BY THOSE THAT HAVE COME BEFORE ME AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE BY THOSE THAT COME AFTER ME IF CHANGE DOES NOT OCCUR.

THE SOUNDS OF RESILIENCE AND PERFECTION AND ECHOES OF PRESSURE AND DETERMINATION CREATING AN UPROAR IN MY MIND, UNTIL THEY ARE SUDDENLY SILENCED BY A FAMILIAR BUT UNNAMED VOICE THAT GENTLY WHISPERS:

YOU ARE NOT A REPRESENTATIVE OR FIGUREHEAD FOR YOUR RACE

YOU ARE NOT A STATISTIC

YOU ARE NOT A TOKEN FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

YOU ARE NOT A MECHANISM USED TO ENFORCE A STEREOTYPE

YOU ARE AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DESERVES THE BEST,

RESPECT,

GOOD EXPERIENCES,

SENIOR POSITIONS – IF THAT IS WHAT YOUR HEART DESIRES,

FREEDOM,

SUPPORT SYSTEMS,

SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS...

AND LET'S NOT FORGET GREATNESS

WHICH IS IMPLANTED IN EVERY INDIVIDUAL IN DIFFERENT,

YET SEEMINGLY INTRIGUING WAYS.