

The Drought

Pia Kmeid

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Corresponding author: Pia Kmeid

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The Drought won First Place at the annual regional youth arts competition for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence 2022, coordinated by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Arab Institute for Women (AiW) at the Lebanese American University (LAU). Climate change is increasingly recognized as a Women, Peace and Security concern, creating an environment ripe for increasing gender-based harms and inequalities, as this poem starkly reveals.

The Drought

Pia Kmeid

To the field he left
Looking for some wheat for bread
For his girls to be fed

No grain, no plant was spared
At the sight of land, dread
Dry tears he wept
Resorted to whom matched his soul,
Mother of four,
As a sacrifice in this war
Tears so dry and cold
Hardened heart and soil even more

You reap what you harvest they say
As he merely got some hay
But it was time to pay
With even greater pain;
The girls had to obey

To the field they left
In exchange of wheat for some bread
For him to be fed