

# POETRY'S POWER TO SPEAK THE UNSPEAKABLE

A TALK BY DR. CHOMAN HARDI



Judith Herman taught us that disempowerment and disconnection are at the core of trauma. Accordingly, recovery must be “based upon the empowerment of survivors and the creation of new connections.”

Communities that are recovering from mass trauma try to move on by shutting out painful stories from the past. Over time, survivors' stories are ridiculed, doubted, and even turned into jokes.

These individuals, who already feel disempowered and disconnected, are victimised once again when, in the aftermath of the atrocities, they are stigmatised in their own communities, left behind, not heard, not believed.

At times like this, when the truth is muddled, confused, and gradually forgotten, when a story is too complicated, too painful, and too elusive to tell, poetry comes to our rescue. It provides that safe space in which to tell those stories.

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3:00 PM - 4:30 PM  
ROOM 105,  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
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