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## I Am

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# I Am

## Abstract

Hearing undocumented I want it to be for means of empowerment,  
I am tired of the pity look, of the silence, of hesitation, of the thick air and the tension  
Whenever I let people in.  
When I let people in, I expect respect as a human being,  
And not as a saving cause.  
The last thing I ask is for reassurance or comfort  
I had been undocumented for the last eleven years  
Eleven years that I have internalized a distorted false narrative of who I am [*excerpt*]

## Keywords

butterfly, Gettysburg, Gettysburg College, humanity, I stand with immigrants, Immigration, resistance, status, The Butterfly Coalition, undocumented immigrants, undocumented immigration

## Disciplines

Civic and Community Engagement

## Comments

Surge is a student blog at Gettysburg College where systemic issues of justice matter. Posts are originally published at [surgegettysburg.wordpress.com](https://surgegettysburg.wordpress.com) Through stories and reflection, these blog entries relate personal experiences to larger issues of equity, demonstrating that –isms are structural problems, not actions defined by individual prejudice. We intend to popularize justice, helping each other to recognize our biases and unlearn the untruths.

# SURGE

**[ VERB ] : to move suddenly or powerfully forward or upward**

## I AM

October 22, 2019

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I am tired of the pity look, of the silence, of hesitation, of the thick air and the tension  
Whenever I let people in.  
When I let people in, I expect respect as a human being,  
And not as a saving cause.  
The last thing I ask is for reassurance or comfort  
I had been undocumented for the last eleven years  
Eleven years that I have internalized a distorted false narrative of who I am  
Because I am more than just a status  
I am more than just a disposable, nameless body  
I am reclaiming back my own narrative  
Reclaiming back my humanity  
I am taking ownership of my body  
Of my own activism  
Overcoming the silence  
I am generating my own voice  
Coming out of the shadows  
Not afraid of being visible  
Hearing undocumented is empowerment.  
I have the power of transcending across borders,  
Not restricted by limitations,  
Not restricted by any walls.  
I am the butterfly that migrated  
I am the workforce that upholds America  
I am a story that you steal, distort and criminalize  
My status is a capital that you profit out of  
But my existence has been against all odds  
I am humanizing myself  
Generating my own discourse.  
I am not the sad story that you tell,

I am love  
I am happiness  
I am laughter  
I am community  
I am resistance  
I am liberation  
I am powerful  
I am undocumented  
And I am so much more...  
I am a human being.

Mel  
Contributing Writer