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A Container

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A Container

An object that can be used
to transport or hold
something.

Not someone.

A container is not a
mode of transportation
for a human being,
for a family, for a child.

A container is not a home.

Goods are held in containers,
standardized boxes that are made to
be stacked up on top of each other.

Human beings are not goods to be
stored somewhere for convenience, or
transported as unwanted merchandise.

Toxic chemicals and poisonous substances
are kept in containers to prevent harm to human beings.

Fleeing for safety and survival does not imbue human
beings with inherent danger to others.

Who could believe that human beings belong in containers?

Who could look away while they exist there?

Authors Note

Patricia O'Rourke is a PhD candidate in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the Neag School of Education, University of Connecticut, Storrs. Her work focuses on the role of radical love in critical public pedagogy and praxis for transforming social relationships and educational systems marked by broken trust and systemic racism through engaging with others in the challenges of the moment while simultaneously working toward a new and yet unimagined future. Patricia teaches Multicultural Education; Power, Privilege, and Public Education; and, a Masters' Seminar for teacher-candidates.