

Never Again

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G C G D

There are times in our history we'd rather ignore

G C G D G

The shattering of glass, the knock on the door

G C

But to know who we are we must know where we've been

G D G

We and our children say, "Never again"

G D

Never again, we say, never again

G C

We will all stand together,

G D G

Saying never again. (2 x)

The first refugees who were forced from their homes

Were the Lummi, to weep for their ancestor's bones

They had fished in these waters for twelve thousand years

But white settlers said there's no room for them here

Then came the Chinese, with dreams of their own

Fleeing the chaos of a faraway home

They did back-breaking labor 'til driven from here

By boycotts and lies and a frenzy of fear CHORUS

In 1907, Punjabis were next
To be visible targets for a city's unrest
Mill workers were roughed up, sent out in a rush
Muslims and Sikhs, for not being like us

1942, it happened again
The order came down from the president's pen
If you looked Japanese, there was no place to turn
33 rounded up here, to never return CHORUS

We still have a long way to go in these days
If you're black or Hispanic, or Muslim or gay
But we hold close these lessons and we're making it clear
That justice and love will overcome fear CHORUS

Another song written for the "Opening Doors" project, and first sung at the dedication of the Arch of Reconciliation and Healing, installed on the grounds of the Bellingham Public Library in 2018. I loved seeing a circle of people, from such diverse backgrounds, dancing to this song.