

### See the Person

Please do not look at me, like I'm something on your shoe

So, I live in social housing, am I inferior to you?

You know nothing of my life, so who are you to Judge?

Do you see me as unworthy? And so, you hold a grudge?

Please do not approach me, as if you are my friend

When deep down in your psyche, you know it's all pretend

I'm tired of your assumptions, your negativity is rife,

Would it shock you if I told you, Social Housing saved my life?

Please do not attempt, to make me feel ashamed,

I'm proud of my estate, I refuse to be defamed

Why can't you see the person, behind your cruel perception?

I can thoroughly assure you, it's a widespread misconception!

Please do not believe, all you witness on the news,

'Sink Estates' and 'ASB', you let this form your views?

Have you the ability, to see the woods for the trees?

It's merely all a ploy, to bring social housing to its knees!

Please do not berate me, because I haven't bought my home

I still have aspirations, and dreams all of my own

I live my life for others, and helping is my high

Although I'm not a homeowner, some things you cannot buy!

Please do not fear me, I will not steal your phone

I'd rather tend my garden or potter around my home

Talk to me, I'm human I won't give you a fright

You might just come to like me, I swear I do not bite!

**Please just see the person, behind your social stigma  
I'm human just like you, not some strange enigma  
The sooner you accept that, and then learn not to judge  
You might just *see the person* and lose that silly grudge!!**

**Sarita-Marie Rehman-Wall**

**NFA Board Vice-Chair and Nottingham City Homes Vice-Chair**