

# Groundswell News

Newspaper of The Grassroots Coalition for Environmental & Economic Justice

*We Are A Global Family. News By and About Climate Activists.*

**Our Motto: Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.**

*A Celebration of Youth. [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org). Issue No. 57: December 2019*

## Iona's Column:

### Lots of News



Dear Reader,

I love life in New Jersey, where I had lived 40 years ago. I'm close to my family and the ocean. My new address and email address are on page 2.

Given the fact that many of my subscribers live in Africa, I am dropping the name "The Go-Back Club" because they don't need to go back. Most of them are living in dire poverty with horrible access to water and electricity.

When I first created The Go-Back Club in 2013, the concept was directed to Americans, who in general are energy hogs and have way too much "stuff." It was designed to be a Consumer Liberation movement. We here still have too many advantages and as Greta Thunberg says, equity is a key focus of our work on climate justice.

I often feel guilty about how easy and reckless life with too much wealth and comfort can be. In spite of my strong environmental background, knowledge, and spirit, sometimes I slip. I want to see the day when Earth's gifts to us all are shared equally and not squandered.

I was planning to take a break from publishing but then I bought Greta's book, *No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference*, which includes many of her speeches. I decided that it was time to come back.

After John died, I was going to let the non-profit Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice die a natural death. We started it together in 1990 and spent 30 years working together on it. But I got a donation of \$500 in the midst of mourning and heard John's spirit urging me to carry on, so here I am, slightly different but still very much the same.

With Love,

*Iona*



Photo: Courtesy of ECI

*On the roof of the Environmental Change Institute (ECI): Madeleine Ratcliffe (l) and Lucy Fellingham (r) helped to develop climate exam questions.*

## Do Your Maths and Tackle the Climate Crisis

By Alex Kirby

Climate News Network: November 29, 2019

**So you want to be a climate scientist? For a start, you'll need good maths. And Oxford educators have found a way to help you.**

OXFORD, UK – Who would have thought it, that everything which goes under the name of maths is a crucial part of the armory of climate scientists? But, as the scientists themselves know well, it is – and anyone who wants to make an effective contribution to tackling the global climate emergency must be a competent mathematician.

That's a lesson not lost on the movement that gave life to the idea of regular school climate strikes, Fridays for Future, which today embarks on another round of action aimed at stirring older generations into tackling the

global crisis. It has already earned the backing of senior scientists, and now teachers as well are supporting its activities.

If you search online to find the qualifications you need to become a doctor, you'll find thousands of answers. But ask the same question for solving climate change – for many people the defining issue of our time – and you may search in vain.

Enter MathsforPlanetEarth.org, part of a project on climate engagement with young people and schools being undertaken by the Environmental Change Institute (ECI) and the School of Geography and the Environment at the University of Oxford, UK.

The project began with a pop-up "Ask a climate scientist" stand at the student marches, where ECI scientists quickly realized they needed a more strategic offer. They are now working with the university's education department, with local teachers, and with app developers, both "on curriculum" and extra-curriculum. MathsforPlanetEarth.

**Maths** continued on page 3

# What is the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice?

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**Established:** September 2013

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## Mission of Our Newspaper

The mission of *Groundswell News* is to be a beautiful, inspiring, uplifting newspaper which educates and enlightens people about climate change through scientific articles and stories by and about activists who are working to protect life on Earth and preserve natural resources.

## What is the Grassroots Coalition?

John and Iona Conner started this non-profit 501(c)(3) organization in 1990. The mission was and remains “dedicated to creating the critical mass of active participants needed to being ecological justice to this Earth

by providing information and resources to individuals which encourage and assist them to make lifestyle changes beneficial to the environment and to effectively grapple with local and global environmental concerns.”

## Who are we trying to attract?

We hope to reach people who are concerned about global warming and realize that they are part of the problem but don't know what to do. We invite them to sign up for our newspaper. Please tell your family and friends about us. They can go to [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org) to learn more.

## What are we trying to achieve?

We want to rapidly increase the number of serious climate activists in the world and inspire them through stories from other activists. Our goal is to keep their spirits up, their energy strong, their hearts open, and their eyes bright and alive.

## Our Values

This newspaper is based on love for Earth, all people, all forms of life – plus air, clouds,

rain, snow, weather, oceans, forests, etc. We love Nature. We respect everyone and are willing to share our experiences, both good and bad, with others who may profit from them.

We are a global family.

## Guidelines for Submissions

I do not get directly involved in fundraising. To submit a story, you need to write a regular article about your work and submit it in a Word document with 2 or 3 photos, including captions and photo credits and then email it to me at [groundswellnews@pa.net](mailto:groundswellnews@pa.net). If you need funding, mention that in your last paragraph and be sure to give your contact information.

Since *Groundswell News* is a climate change activist newspaper, please be sure to mention how your work connects with fighting global warming somewhere.

I can't promise when or if your story will be published. Don't worry too much about punctuation or spelling since I proofread everything, just give me the history, heart and soul, dreams, and current project description plus your contact information at the end. I'll be eager to see what you submit. Thanks so much.

## Fair Use Law: <https://copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>

Fair use is a legal doctrine that promotes freedom of expression by permitting the unlicensed use of copyright-protected works in certain circumstances. Section 107 of the Copyright Act provides the statutory framework for determining whether something is a fair use and identifies certain types of uses—such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research—as examples of activities that may qualify as fair use. Section 107 calls for consideration of the following four factors in evaluating a question of fair use:

**(1) Purpose and character of the use, including whether the use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes:** Courts look at how the party claiming fair use is using the copyrighted work and are more likely to find that nonprofit educational and noncommercial uses are fair. This does not mean, however, that all nonprofit educational and noncommercial uses are fair and all

commercial uses are not fair; instead, courts will balance the purpose and character of the use against the other factors below. Additionally, “transformative” uses are more likely to be considered fair. Transformative uses are those that add something new, with a further purpose or different character, and do not substitute for the original use of the work.

**(2) Nature of the copyrighted work:** This factor analyzes the degree to which the work that was used relates to copyright's purpose of encouraging creative expression. . . .

**(3) Amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole:** Under this factor, courts look at both the quantity and quality of the copyrighted material that was used. If the use includes a large portion of the copyrighted work, fair use is less likely to be found; if the use employs only a small amount of copyrighted material, fair use is more likely. . . .

**(4) Effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work:** Here, courts review whether, and to what extent, the unlicensed use harms the existing or future market for the copyright owner's original work. In assessing this factor, courts consider whether the use is hurting the current market for the original work (for example, by displacing sales of the original) and/or whether the use could cause substantial harm if it were to become widespread. . . .

Please note that the Copyright Office is unable to provide specific legal advice to individual members of the public about questions of fair use. See 37 C.F.R. 201.2(a)(3). For further information, see <https://www.copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>.



Fair Use Logo



Photo: Iona

**Note from the Editor:** *As I bid Farewell to my old home, clothesline built by John, my writer's cabin, The Go-Back Club, and the natural beauty which surrounded us in Shade Gap, Pennsylvania, I am already missing the clothesline. At least I have an old-fashioned wooden rack I can use in my apartment. If you have any way to create and use an outdoor clothesline for yourself, please please do it. This is a great way to cut down on fossil fuel use. Dryers use an enormous amount of energy.*

### Maths continued from page 1

org is their first output and is working to get climate change into A-level maths.

"We've started with maths", says Myles Allen, Oxford's professor of Geosystem Science and leader of climateprediction.net, the world's largest climate forecasting experiment. "There are a lot of numbers and calculations in the weather, temperature, and climate models, and around solutions like renewable energy and adaptations like where and how high to build flood defenses. We need more brainy mathematicians."

MathsforPlanetEarth.org has begun deliberately with exam questions. A team of local students – school and university – have worked with scientists at ECI, crafting a collection of climate-related problems based on the A-level and GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) syllabuses (see <https://mathsforplanetearth.ouce.ox.ac.uk/> for examples). Their problems closely follow the format of the more traditional topics usually associated with school maths.

### Irritating Topics

"I've been to several school climate strikes this year and met many inspiring, passionate, and very well-informed students," Professor Allen told the Climate

News Network. "They have extraordinary energy. As educators, our best contribution is to give them the intellectual tools to help do the job.

"Many climate strikers seem taken aback when I urge them to keep their maths going. And when we looked at the examples of maths questions they are given at school, it's not surprising: almost all of them seemed to be about cars or money, two topics almost guaranteed to irritate a concerned climate-striker.

"So we put this website together to provide teachers with interesting problems in climate change and sustainability, using exactly the techniques they are teaching in GCSE and A-levels anyway. For now, we just have to explain to kids how much of what they learn is relevant to climate change already."

What MathsforPlanetEarth.org can do in the UK could work well elsewhere, too. Dr. Kim Polgreen, founder of a new social enterprise, Leadership in Global Change (LIGC), has been collaborating with ECI, hosting sustainability summer schools for 15-18 year olds from across the world, and from local schools in Oxford.

### Impatient Ambition

Polgreen is working to get ECI's project into schools through teacher training

organizations and teacher groups. "While teachers like the idea, they are challenged by needing some confidence in the science that lies behind the questions," she says.

She is one of over 800 international graduates from ECI, now working in more than 80 countries, who could be a good way to tell teachers about the project worldwide. She also sees maths as just a start. "I am hopeful that we can expand the concept to texts used in English, to more case studies in geography and the sciences. This approach can make the curriculum across all subjects more real and meaningful for today's teenagers."

Professor Allen agrees: "Climate change – and the environment – are today's pioneering topics for young people's education. We must be ambitious and impatient about creating stimulating material across all subjects, equipping our children with the skills they need."

**How would you make MathsforPlanetEarth.org better? ECI would like to hear from teachers, students, and others about what you think of MathsforPlanetEarth.org – and how you would improve and add to it. Please send your comments to: [mathsforplanetearth@ouce.ox.ac.uk](mailto:mathsforplanetearth@ouce.ox.ac.uk). Thank you!**

**Source:** <https://climatenewsnetwork.net/do-your-maths-and-tackle-the-climate-crisis/>



Photos: Foto-Rabe, Pixabay

*“There is no sign of a slowdown, let alone a decline,” warns the World Meteorological Organization chief, referring to the increasing releases of greenhouse gases.*

## GHGs Show No Slowdown, No Decline: #GlobalHeating Shoots Up

By Rolly Montpellier, Below2C  
Primary Source, Common Dreams  
November 28, 2019

**“There is no sign of a slowdown, let alone a decline,” warns the World Meteorological Organization chief.**

The 1.5°C and 2°C temperature targets of the Paris Agreement are fast becoming just an unachievable dream. With only 121 months left to 2030 – the target date set by the IPCC – the unrelenting increase of greenhouse gases (GHGs) shows no decline, not even a slowdown. Our failure to meet Paris commitments will open the door to a nightmarish future of runaway #globalheating and catastrophic climate change.

In yet another signal to global governments that greater ambition is needed to combat the climate crisis, an annual United Nations report just released reveals that levels of long-lived greenhouse gases in the atmosphere reached record highs last year.

### No Decline, No Slowdown in GHGs

The latest World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Greenhouse Gas Bulletin (pdf) provided figures for globally averaged concentrations of three key climate-heating gases in 2018:

- Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), which reached 407.8 parts per million;
- Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), which reached 1,869 parts per billion; and
- Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), which reached 331.1 parts per billion.

“These values represent, respectively, 147%, 259%, and 123% of pre-industrial (before 1750) levels,” the bulletin noted. In terms of contributions to warming the climate, “Carbon dioxide is the single most important anthropogenic GHG in the atmosphere” among all long-lived greenhouse gases, the primary focus of the report.

Both methane and nitrous oxide are emitted by natural sources, but about 60 percent of CH<sub>4</sub> emitted into the atmosphere comes from human activities such as biomass burning, cattle farming, fossil fuel exploitation, landfills, and rice agriculture, according to the bulletin. About

40 percent of N<sub>2</sub>O comes from human sources, including fertilizer use and various industrial processes.

From 2017 to 2018, concentrations of all three gases surged by higher amounts than the yearly increases documented over the past decade.

### FANTASTIC VIDEO FROM THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO)

@WMO

November 25, 2019

**#Greenhouse gas concentrations hit a new record high.**

**Future generations will face increasingly severe impacts of #climatechange, incl rising temperatures, extreme weather, water stress, sea level rise, ocean acidification, disruption to ecosystems. #COP25<https://bit.ly/33j132K>**

### #GlobalHeating

“Since 1990, there has been a 43% increase in total radiative forcing – the warming effect on the climate – by long-lived greenhouse gases,” the WMO said in a statement announcing the new bulletin.

**GHGs** *continued on next page*



Photo: World Meteorological Organization

Image with WMO tweet: #Greenhouse gas concentrations hit a new record high. Future generations will face increasingly severe impacts of #climatechange, incl rising temperatures, extreme weather, water stress, sea level rise, ocean acidification, disruption to ecosystems. #COP25 <https://bit.ly/33j132K>

### **GHGs** continued from previous page

The U.N. agency warned that “this continuing long-term trend means that future generations will be confronted with increasingly severe impacts of climate change, including rising temperatures, more extreme weather, water stress, sea level rise, and disruption to marine and land ecosystems.”

The bulletin was released a week before the next U.N. Climate Change Conference, COP 25, was scheduled to start. Representatives from across the globe were meeting at the conference in Madrid to discuss governments’ commitments to tackling the human-caused climate emergency, including obligations under the 2015 Paris accord.

**FANTASTIC VIDEO FROM THE UN United Nations @UN November 26, 2019 We’re on perilous ground. The is on track for a temperature rise of over 3°C. This would bring mass extinctions & large parts of the planet would be uninhabitable.**

**We need #ClimateAction NOW to close the #EmissionsGap: <http://bit.ly/2KU0kPb> v @UNEP**

WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas, in the agency’s statement, tied the bulletin’s findings to the necessity of bolder climate action on a global scale.

“There is no sign of a slowdown, let alone a decline, in greenhouse gases concentration in the atmosphere despite all the commitments under the Paris agreement on climate change,” Taalas said. “We need to translate the commitments into action and increase the level of ambition for the sake of the future welfare of... mankind.”

“It is worth recalling that the last time the Earth experienced a comparable concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> was 3-5 million years ago,” he added. “Back then, the temperature was 2-3°C warmer, sea level was 10-20 meters (33 to 67 feet) higher than now.”

Inger Andersen, executive director of the U.N. Environment Program – which last week released a report detailing how projections for fossil fuel production by 2030 are “dangerously out of step” with global climate goals – connected the bulletin to UNEP’s next annual Emission Gap Report.

“The findings of WMO’s Greenhouse Gas Bulletin and UNEP’s Emissions Gap Report point us in a clear direction – in this critical period, the world must deliver concrete, stepped-up action on emissions,” Andersen said.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres tweeted the WMO bulletin and wrote, “Another record that shows we are not doing enough to address the climate emergency. Strong & decisive #ClimateAction cannot wait. <https://bit.ly/33j132K>”

The bulletin elicited renewed demands from activists for both governments and the private sector to ramp up efforts to drive down greenhouse gases, particularly by phasing out fossil fuels.

The level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has reached another record high, according to @WMO.

“The record rise in greenhouse gas concentrations is a cruel reminder that for all the real progress in clean technology, we have yet to even stop global emissions increases,” Nick Mabey, chief executive of global think tank E3G, told *The Guardian*. “The climate system cannot be negotiated with. Until we stop new investment in fossil fuels and massively scale up green power the risks from catastrophic climate change will continue to rise.”

*This article was first published in Common Dreams.*

**Source:** <https://below2c.org/2019/11/ghgs-show-no-slowdown-no-decline-globalheating-shoots-up/>



Photo Extinction Rebellion UK

*Criminal charges have been dropped against Extinction Rebellion activists arrested during a London-wide protest ban, says an XR tweet @XRRebellionUK.*

## 'The Law Is on Our Side': Extinction Rebellion Celebrates Dropped Charges Against 105 Climate Activists

Ultimately, the environmental movement expects the cases of over 1,000 activists arrested in London last month will be discontinued.

By Jessica Corbett  
Common Dreams: November 27, 2019

Extinction Rebellion and its supporters celebrated after the agency that conducts criminal prosecutions in England dropped charges against 105 activists who were arrested in London last month for participating in the environmental movement's "Autumn Uprising" actions.

The Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) decision to end the cases against Extinction Rebellion (XR) activists came after a high court in the U.K. ruled early this month that a protest ban imposed by London's Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) under section 14 of the Public Order Act was unlawful.

"It is to be hoped that the police will, in future, take much greater care to act within the law and to balance the right to protest

with their desire for public order," Martin Marston-Paterson, one of the XR activists arrested under the section 14 order in October, said in a statement.

"Extinction Rebellion is glad to see that the Met Police and the CPS have recognized the implications of our successful challenge earlier this month," said Tobias Garnett, a human rights lawyer in the movement's legal strategy team. "It underlines the need for proper policing that doesn't waste precious public resources."

These admissions of unlawful arrest, said Garnett, "affirm that when the people of this country assemble peacefully to demand action on the climate and ecological emergency the law is on our side."

A police spokesperson told *The Evening Standard* that, "The MPS remains disappointed by the judgment, but of course respects the decision of the court" and will not appeal the ruling. Reiterating past calls for legislative updates, the spokesperson added that, "The MPS will continue to carefully consider and review the use of this legislation during future demonstrations."

Ultimately, Extinction Rebellion expects more than 1,000 cases against XR protesters arrested in October will be dropped.

According to *The Guardian*, the CPS confirmed that the cases discontinued so far include 73 defendants charged with breach of section 14; 24 charged with breach of section 14 and highway obstruction; and eight charged only with highway obstruction.

Welcoming the news Wednesday, Jules Carey of the London law firm Bindmans LLP said that, "It is now clear that the policing of the Extinction Rebellion protests was a mess: the right to protest was overlooked, police powers were overstepped, and a significant clean-up operation is now required in the criminal justice system to deal with hundreds of cases that should never have been brought."

XR activists in the U.K. are now gearing up for holiday season protests to highlight the movement's three key demands:

- Government must tell the truth by declaring a climate and ecological emergency, working with other institutions to communicate the urgency for change.
- Government must act now to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025.
- Government must create and be led by the decisions of a Citizens' Assembly on

**Free** continued on next page

# Ending Violence, Exploitation, Ecological Destruction, and War: Creating a Culture of Peace

By Robert J. Burrowes

Transcent Media Service #612: November 11, 2019

The date 11 November is well known and commemorated in many parts of the world because it marks the Armistice ending World War I – ‘the Great War’ – in 1918.

In the evocative words used by Kurt Vonnegut Jr., an atheist humanist, in his novel *Breakfast of Champions*, the day is remembered thus:

*“When I was a boy ... all the people of all the nations which fought in the First World War were silent during the eleventh minute of the eleventh hour of Armistice Day, which was the eleventh day of the eleventh month. It was at that minute in nineteen-hundred and eighteen, that millions upon millions of human beings stopped butchering one another. I have talked to old men who were on battlefields at that minute. They have told me in one way or another that the sudden silence was the Voice of God. So we still have among us some men who can remember when God spoke clearly to mankind.”*

And what, exactly, did God (by whatever name: Allah, Krishna, Yahweh...) or the Gods say? we might ask. Well, even those who profess little more than scant knowledge of religious texts that purport to represent the word of God might suggest that s/he simply breathed a (silent) sigh of relief that the insanity of mass warfare had ended. For now at least.

For those of us concerned with the struggle to create cultures of peace or, even, a world culture of peace, there are some fundamental questions to consider including the classic question discussed by two of humanity’s greats – Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud – when they tackled the question ‘Why War?’<sup>1</sup>

Of course, as many people now understand it, peace entails far more than simply a state without military (including terrorist) violence and war. Beyond these forms of violence, many exponents of peace seek

the end of other dimensions of what I call ‘visible’ violence, including:

1. **Direct violence** that goes beyond military violence, such as ‘biological violence’ (that is, violence against the body) in the family home and as a result of violent crime as well as ‘physical violence’ (that is, constraints on movement). See ‘Violence, Peace, and Peace Research.’<sup>2</sup>

2. **Institutional violence:** socially endorsed violence including that inflicted by parents, teachers, police, legal and prison systems – see ‘Punishment is Violent and Counterproductive’ and ‘The Rule of Law: Unjust and Violent’<sup>2</sup> – and which now manifests in a myriad other forms with the emergence of the surveillance state that spies on and gathers endless data on individuals to build substantial personal profiles on each – linking many personal records including those related to health and financial matters with political activities and consumption patterns – in violation of any basic understanding of, or commitment to, human rights in their many political, economic, social, cultural, and other forms.

3. **Structural violence** which Mohandas K. Gandhi originally identified when making his observation that “exploitation is violence” and Professor Johan Galtung – see ‘A Structural Theory of Imperialism’<sup>3</sup> and ‘Violence, Peace, and Peace Research’<sup>6</sup> – later elaborated as violence built into structures, such as capitalism and imperialism, that deprive some people of the opportunities to live full and meaningful lives and manifest, for example, as poverty, homelessness, and the economic exploitation of people who live in Africa, Asia, and Central/South America.

4. **Ecological violence:** those activities ranging from destruction of the climate and rainforests to the killing of insects and wildlife that constitute destruction of the biosphere.

Of course, these categories are not mu-

tually exclusive but they serve to illustrate categories of violence not always recognized as such.

Apart from these forms of ‘visible’ violence, Professor Johan Galtung also identified the importance of psychological violence – “lies, brainwashing, indoctrination of various kinds, threats, etc. that serve to decrease mental potentialities” see ‘Violence, Peace, and Peace Research’<sup>7</sup> – and coined the term ‘cultural violence’ to describe “those aspects of culture, the symbolic sphere of our existence – exemplified by religion and ideology, language and art, empirical science and formal science (logic, mathematics) – that can be used to justify or legitimize direct or structural violence.” See ‘Cultural Violence.’<sup>8</sup>

Beyond these and other categories of violence – including patriarchy and racism as specific manifestations of violence that are, arguably, simultaneously direct, structural, and cultural – which stand between humanity and a culture of peace, there are two other categories of violence which I will argue it is necessary to end before we can make profound inroads in ending those mentioned above.

These two categories – which I have labeled ‘invisible’ violence and ‘utterly invisible’ violence – describe vitally important categories of violence which human adults inflict on children. Moreover, complemented by the ‘visible’ violence that adults inflict on children, it is this ‘invisible’ and ‘utterly invisible’ violence which destroys the unique human individual who was created during a nine-month gestation period and turns them into a ‘socially constructed delusional identity’ who submissively fulfills the extraordinarily limited expectations of their particular adult world and, with only rare exceptions, willingly participates in many if not all of the other forms of violence that torment our world and certainly

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**Free** continued from previous page climate and ecological justice.

On Saturday, Extinction Rebellion activists will launch nonviolent direct actions for “12 Days of Crisis,” which will coincide with the U.N.’s COP 25 climate summit in Madrid and run up to the eve of the U.K. general election on December 12.

“Rebels from Wales to Cumbria are set to ramp up the pressure on our politicians; from singing Crisis Carols and setting off Air Raid Sirens to occupations of high level political targets,” XR said in a statement Tuesday. “The 12 Days of Crisis will kick off with a nationwide Sounding of the Alarm, and proceed with a series of powerful actions outside Political Party HQs and

on the campaign trail.”

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**Source:** <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2019/11/27/law-our-side-extinction-rebellion-celebrates-dropped-charges-against-105-climate>

**Peace** *continued from previous page*

includes inflicting 'invisible' and 'utterly invisible' violence on their own children. Which is why the cycle of violence goes on.

### Why Is This?

Because society is preoccupied with producing submissively obedient students, workers, soldiers, citizens (that is, taxpayers and voters), and consumers. Hence, the last thing society wants is powerful individuals who are each capable of searching their conscience, feeling their emotional response to events, thinking critically, and behaving strategically in response. For that reason our parenting and education models use a ruthless combination of visible, 'invisible' and 'utterly invisible' violence to ensure that our children become terrified, self-hating, and powerless individuals like virtually all of the adults around them.

### How Does This Happen?

#### What Is This 'Invisible' and 'Utterly Invisible' Violence?

Perpetrators of violence learn their craft in childhood. If you inflict violence on a child, they learn to inflict violence on others. The political leaders who decide to wage war, the military leaders who plan and conduct it, as well as the soldiers, sailors, and aircraft personnel who fight war, each suffered violence as a child. The terrorist suffered violence as a child. The man who inflicts violence on his partner suffered violence as a child. The corporate executive who exploits working class people and/or those who live in Africa, Asia, or Central/South America suffered violence as a child. The racist or religious bigot suffered violence as a child. The individual who perpetrates violence in the home, in the schoolyard, or on the street suffered violence as a child. The individual who over-consumes, or even consumes certain products, and/or otherwise destroys the biosphere, suffered violence as a child.

If we want to end violence in all of its manifestations and create a culture of peace, locally and globally, then we must finally end our longest and greatest war: the adult war on children. And here is an additional incentive: if we do not tackle the fundamental cause of violence, then our combined and unrelenting efforts to tackle all of its other symptoms must ultimately fail. And extinction at our own hand is inevitable.

How can I claim that violence against children is the fundamental cause of all other violence? Consider this. There is universal acceptance that behavior is shaped by childhood experience. If it was not, we would not put such effort into education and other efforts to socialize children to 'fit

into' their society. And this is why many psychologists have argued that exposure to war toys and violent video games shapes attitudes and behaviors in relation to violence.

But it is far more complex than this and, strange though it may seem, it is not just the 'visible' violence (such as hitting, screaming at, and sexually abusing) that we normally label 'violence' that causes the main damage, although this is extremely damaging. The largest component of damage arises from the 'invisible' and 'utterly invisible' violence that we adults unconsciously inflict on children during the ordinary course of the day. Tragically, the bulk of this violence occurs in the family home and at school. See 'Why Violence?'<sup>9</sup> and 'Fearless Psychology and Fearful Psychology: Principles and Practice'.<sup>10</sup>

So what is 'invisible' violence? It is the 'little things' we do every day, partly because we are just 'too busy'. For example, when we do not allow time to listen to, and value, a child's thoughts and feelings, the child learns to not listen to themSelf thus destroying their internal communication system. When we do not let a child say what they want (or ignore them when they do), the child develops communication and behavioral dysfunctions as they keep trying to meet their own needs (which, as a basic survival strategy, they are genetically programmed to do).

When we blame, condemn, insult, mock, embarrass, shame, humiliate, taunt, goad, guilt-trip, deceive, lie to, bribe, blackmail, moralize with, and/or judge a child, we both undermine their sense of Self-worth and teach them to blame, condemn, insult, mock, embarrass, shame, humiliate, taunt, goad, guilt-trip, deceive, lie, bribe, blackmail, moralize, and/or judge.

The fundamental outcome of being bombarded throughout their childhood by this 'invisible' violence is that the child is utterly overwhelmed by feelings of fear, pain, anger, and sadness (among many others). However, mothers, fathers, teachers, religious figures, and other adults also actively interfere with the expression of these feelings and the behavioral responses that are naturally generated by them and it is this 'utterly invisible' violence that explains why the dysfunctional behavioral outcomes actually occur.

For example, by ignoring a child when they express their feelings, by comforting, reassuring or distracting a child when they express their feelings, by laughing at or ridiculing their feelings, by terrorizing a child into not expressing their feelings (for example, by screaming at them when they cry or get angry), and/or by violently controlling a behavior that is generated

by their feelings (for example, by hitting them, restraining them, or locking them into a room), the child has no choice but to unconsciously suppress their awareness of these feelings.

However, once a child has been terrorized into suppressing their awareness of their feelings (rather than being allowed to have their feelings and to act on them) the child has also unconsciously suppressed their awareness of the reality that caused these feelings. This has many outcomes that are disastrous for the individual, for society, and for nature because the individual will now easily suppress their awareness of the feelings that would tell them how to act most functionally in any given circumstance and they will progressively acquire a phenomenal variety of dysfunctional behaviors, including some that are violent towards themselves, others, and/or the Earth.

From the above, it should also now be apparent that punishment should never be used. 'Punishment', of course, is one of the words we use to obscure our awareness of the fact that we are using violence. Violence, even when we label it 'punishment', scares children and adults alike and cannot elicit a functional behavioral response. See 'Punishment is Violent and Counterproductive'.<sup>11</sup>

If someone behaves dysfunctionally, they need to be listened to, deeply, so that they can start to become consciously aware of the feelings (which will always include fear and, often, terror) that drove the dysfunctional behavior in the first place. They then need to feel and express these feelings (including any anger) in a safe way. Only then will behavioral change in the direction of functionality be possible. See 'Nisteling: The Art of Deep Listening'.<sup>12</sup>

"But these adult behaviors you have described don't seem that bad. Can the outcome be as disastrous as you claim?" you might ask.

The problem is that there are hundreds of these 'ordinary', everyday behaviors that destroy the Selfhood of the child. It is 'death by a thousand cuts' and most children simply do not survive as Self-aware individuals. And why do we do this? As mentioned above, we do it so that each child will fit into our model of 'the perfect citizen': that is, obedient and hardworking student, reliable and pliant employee/soldier, and submissive law-abiding citizen (that is, one who pays their taxes and votes and/or lobbies politicians).

Moreover, once we destroy the Selfhood of a child, it has many flow-on effects. For example, once you terrorize a child into accepting certain information about themselves, other people, or the state of the world,

**Peace** *continued on next page*



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the child becomes unconsciously fearful of dealing with new information, especially if this information is contradictory to what they have been terrorized into believing. As a result, the child will unconsciously dismiss new information out of hand.

In short, the child has been terrorized in such a way that they are no longer capable of learning (or their learning capacity is seriously diminished by excluding any information that is not a simple extension of what they already 'know'). If you imagine any of the bigots you know, you are imagining someone who is utterly terrified. But it's not just the bigots; virtually all people are affected in this manner making them incapable of responding adequately to new (or even important) information. This is one explanation why some people are 'climate deniers', most people do nothing in response to the climate catastrophe and even those people who do take action usually do so ineffectively. See 'The Global Climate Movement is Failing: Why?'<sup>13</sup>

But the same can be said for those working to end war – see 'The War to End War 100 Years On: An Evaluation and Reorientation of our Resistance to War'<sup>14</sup> – end the nuclear weapons race or engage in other struggles, including liberation struggles, that are vital parts of the global struggle to create a culture of peace. See 'Why Activists Fail'.<sup>15</sup>

To briefly reiterate this vital point (that each child has been terrorized in such a way that they are no longer capable of learning or their learning capacity is seriously diminished): The multifaceted violence inflicted throughout childhood and adolescence ensures that the adult who emerges is suppressing awareness of an enormous amount of fear, pain, sadness, and anger (among many other feelings) and must live in delusion to remain unaware of these suppressed feelings. This ensures that, as part of their delusion, the individual develops a strong sense that what they are doing already is functional and working (no matter how dysfunctional and ineffective it may actually be) while unconsciously suppressing awareness of any evidence that contradicts their delusion. They do this because, unconsciously, people learn to identify obedience with 'functional and working' (because they do not get punished for being obedient). See 'Why Violence?',<sup>16</sup> 'Fearless Psychology and Fearful Psychology: Principles and Practice',<sup>17</sup> 'Do We Want School or Education?'<sup>18</sup> and 'Love Denied: The Psychology of Materialism, Violence and War'.<sup>19</sup> As an aside, if you want to read more evidence of humanity's 'love' for our children and get a clearer sense of just how

deeply violence is buried in human society, see 'Humanity's "Dirty Little Secret": Starving, Enslaving, Raping, Torturing and Killing our Children'.<sup>20</sup>

Just one horrific outcome of this violence against children is that our planet is run by a global elite that is completely insane. See 'The Global Elite is Insane Revisited'.<sup>21</sup> And this elite plays a key role in driving many of the more obvious manifestations of violence in our world.

### Responding to Violence Strategically to Create a World Culture of Peace

However we define the many positive elements of a culture of peace – which will presumably include an inclusive philosophy of society, a cooperative set of social relations, nonviolent methods for dealing with conflict, and sustainable patterns of matter-energy use while allowing universal human access to the resources necessary to maintain health and well-being, opportunities for meaningful political and economic engagement, as well as cultural opportunities in art, literature, and music among its many other forms, while engaging sustainably with the biosphere to enhance life-opportunities for all other species – this culture of peace can only be achieved if we respond strategically to the violence in our world.

And this means that we must address the fundamental cause of human violence because this drives violence in each and all of its other dimensions. For those adults powerful enough to do this, there is an explanation in 'Putting Feelings First'.<sup>22</sup> And for those adults committed to facilitating children's efforts to realize their potential and become self-aware (rather than delusional), see 'My Promise to Children'.<sup>23</sup> Creating a culture of peace, therefore, relies fundamentally on understanding the critical role of suppressed feelings (emotions) in shaping deep culture and generating conflicts, including violent conflicts, and then taking action that addresses this cause.

This includes the need to understand and deal effectively with those emotions that are being acted out dysfunctionally and/or being projected – see 'The Psychology of Projection in Conflict'<sup>24</sup> – in a particular context, which is standard human behavior in many situations. See 'Nisteling: The Art of Deep Listening'.<sup>25</sup> Otherwise, that most fundamental of emotions – fear – will continue to drive most cultural predispositions and conflicts in all contexts and make genuine resolution of conflicts virtually impossible. This is because it is only if people are not afraid that discussions about ideas in relation to

making culture evolve as we plan (rather than unconsciously or as elites direct) and to resolve conflict nonviolently, become easily possible.

Fundamentally, our parenting and education models fail utterly to produce people of conscience, people who are emotionally functional, people who are capable of critical analysis, people who care, and people who can plan and respond to violence strategically. As Professor Galtung noted just recently, "While we are busy exploring whether there is intelligent life on other planets, we might spend more time – and intelligence – exploring whether there is [intelligent life] on ours." See 'United States vs Moby Dick'.<sup>26</sup> The problem is that once we terrorize a child, the terrified adult who emerges from childhood behaves as guided by their (unconscious) fear, not by any intelligence they may possess. Again, this is routinely illustrated by the failure of even those who self-label as 'activists' to think, plan, and act strategically. See 'Why Activists Fail'.<sup>27</sup>

Of course, we do not need to work on ending violence against children in isolation. We can campaign to end other manifestations of violence – such as war, nuclear weapons and power, economic exploitation, ecological violence in its many forms including geoengineering and the deployment of 5G, violence against women and indigenous peoples, occupations and dictatorships – at the same time. See 'Non-violent Campaign Strategy and Nonviolent Defense/Liberation Strategy'.<sup>28</sup>

But if we work to end the many manifestations of violence while failing to address the fundamental cause then, ultimately, we must fail, even if we elongate our time-frame a little. See 'Human Extinction by 2026? A Last Ditch Strategy to Fight for Human Survival'.<sup>29</sup>

If you are also interested in working locally to reduce your consumption and become more self-reliant, in order to reduce your ecological violence, consider participating in 'The Flame Tree Project to Save Life on Earth'.<sup>30</sup> Alternatively, if you want something simpler, consider committing to:

### *The Earth Pledge*

Out of love for the Earth and all of its creatures, and my respect for their needs, from this day onwards I pledge that:

1. I will listen deeply to children. (see explanation above)
2. I will not travel by plane.
3. I will not travel by car.
4. I will not eat meat and fish.
5. I will only eat organically/biodynamically grown food.

*Peace continued on next page*

Peace *continued from previous page*

6. I will minimize the amount of fresh water I use, including by minimizing my ownership and use of electronic devices.

7. I will not buy rainforest timber.

8. I will not buy or use single-use plastic, such as bags, bottles, containers, cups, and straws.

9. I will not use banks, superannuation (pension) funds or insurance companies that provide any service to corporations involved in fossil fuels, nuclear power, and/or weapons.

10. I will not accept employment from, or invest in, any organization that supports or participates in the exploitation of fellow human beings or profits from killing and/or destruction of the biosphere.

11. I will not get news from the corporate media (mainstream newspapers, television, radio, Google, Facebook, Twitter...).

12. I will make the effort to learn a skill, such as food gardening or sewing, that makes me more self-reliant.

13. I will gently encourage my family and friends to consider signing this pledge.

You might wish to join the worldwide movement working to end all violence by signing the online pledge of "The People's Charter to Create a Nonviolent World."<sup>31</sup>

## Conclusion

The foundation of our violent world is the unending visible, invisible, and utterly invisible violence that human adults inflict on our children. For that reason, it does not matter what superstructure we build on top of this foundation. Whether we use capitalism (and 'democracy'), socialism, or any other political-economic-social model, tack on a New Green Deal or a Just Transition, while the violent foundation on which society is built – violence against children – remains unaddressed, a culture of peace cannot be created.

So we need to raise children in a culture that does not involve terrorizing them so that they end up perceiving violence as the primary way to address conflict because they are too scared to simply perceive the power of, and use, principled nonviolent options.

Hence, until our parenting and teaching models are radically altered, a culture of peace will remain an impossible dream. And human extinction in the near term is inevitable.

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Why War? <https://www.transcend.org/tms/2019/09/why-war/>

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<sup>3</sup> Punishment is Violent and Counterproductive and The Rule of Law: Unjust and Violent. <https://feelingsfirstblog.wordpress.com/punishment/>

<sup>4</sup> The Rule of Law: Unjust and Violent: <http://old.warisacrime.org/content/rule-law-unjust-and-violent>

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<sup>7</sup> See footnote 6.

<sup>8</sup> Cultural Violence. <https://www.galtung-institut.de/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Cultural-Violence-Galtung.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> Why Violence? <http://dkeenan.com/RJB-WhyViolence.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Fearless Psychology and Fearful Psychology: Principles and Practice. <https://www.transcend.org/tms/2019/11/ending-violence-exploitation-ecological-destruction-and-war-creating-a-culture-of-peace/>

<sup>11</sup> Punishment is Violent and Counterproductive. <https://feelingsfirstblog.wordpress.com/punishment/>

<sup>12</sup> Nisteling: The Art of Deep Listening. <https://feelingsfirstblog.wordpress.com/nisteling/>

<sup>13</sup> The Global Climate Movement is Failing: Why? <https://www.transcend.org/tms/2019/09/the-global-climate-movement-is-failing-why/>

<sup>14</sup> The War to End War 100 Years On: An Evaluation and Reorientation of our Resistance to War. <https://www.transcend.org/tms/2018/11/the-war-to-end-war-100-years-on-an-evaluation-and-reorientation-of-our-resistance-to-war/>

<sup>15</sup> Why Activists Fail. <https://nonviolent-strategy.wordpress.com/articles/why-activists-fail/>

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<sup>18</sup> Do We Want School or Education? <https://feelingsfirstblog.wordpress.com/school-or-education/>

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<sup>20</sup> Humanity's "Dirty Little Secret": Starving, Enslaving, Raping, Torturing and Killing our Children. [https://feelingsfirstblog.wordpress.com/humanitys-dirty-little-](https://feelingsfirstblog.wordpress.com/humanitys-dirty-little-secret/)

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<sup>21</sup> The Global Elite is Insane Revisited. <https://feelingsfirstblog.wordpress.com/key-articles/global-elite-is-insane-revisited/>

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<sup>23</sup> My Promise to Children. <https://feelingsfirstblog.wordpress.com/my-promise-to-children/>

<sup>24</sup> The Psychology of Projection in Conflict. <https://feelingsfirstblog.wordpress.com/key-articles/psychology-projection-in-conflict/>

<sup>25</sup> See footnote 8.

<sup>26</sup> United States vs Moby Dick. <https://www.transcend.org/tms/2019/11/united-states-vs-moby-dick/>

<sup>27</sup> See footnote 15.

<sup>28</sup> Nonviolent Campaign Strategy and Nonviolent Defense/Liberation Strategy. <https://nonviolentstrategy.wordpress.com/>

<sup>29</sup> Human Extinction by 2026? A Last Ditch Strategy to Fight for Human Survival.

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<sup>30</sup> The Flame Tree Project to Save Life on Earth. <http://dkeenan.com/Flametree.pdf>

<sup>31</sup> The People's Charter to Create a Nonviolent World. <https://thepeoplesnonviolencecharter.wordpress.com/>

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**Robert Burrowes, Ph.D. is a member of the TRANSCEND Network for Peace Development Environment and has a lifetime commitment to understanding and ending human violence. He has done extensive research since 1966 in an effort to understand why human beings are violent and has been a nonviolent activist since 1981. He is the author of Why Violence? Websites: (Charter) (Flame Tree Project) (Songs of Nonviolence) (Nonviolent Campaign Strategy) (Nonviolent Defense/Liberation Strategy) (Robert J. Burrowes) (Feelings First) Email: [flametree@riseup.net](mailto:flametree@riseup.net).**

**Source:** <https://www.transcend.org/tms/2019/11/ending-violence-exploitation-ecological-destruction-and-war-creating-a-culture-of-peace/>



Photo: Radio Tamazuj

Participants pose for a group photo after the dialogue appealing to local authorities to promote community policing in an effort to restore trust, confidence, and promote peaceful co-existence among communities of Yei. The sign on the left reads: Constructive Political Dialogue, Social Justice, Sustainable Economic Policies, Professional Media.

## Yei River Activist Urges Government to Promote Community Policing, Peace

Submitted by Justoson Victor Yuasa  
South Sudan

Radio Tamazuj: May 22, 2019

A South Sudan civil society activist in Yei River state is appealing to local authorities to promote community policing in an effort to restore trust, confidence, and promote peaceful co-existence among communities of Yei.

Justoson Victor Yuasa, the executive director of the People's Empowerment Center (PEC, a local NGO) told Radio Tamazuj on Tuesday the role of the local authorities is crucial in peace and reconciliation. He said the local authorities are best placed to disseminate the revitalized peace deal.

"The role of the local chiefs should not be undermined in maintaining peace and

security because they are the watchdogs in the areas and they understand the peace agreement and then they will help provide information to the government," he said.

Victor noted that chiefs are also important in reporting issues affecting the people to the government as well as provide recommendations.

For her part, Huda Michael Laila, the Yei River state minister for local government and law enforcement, further called on community leaders and civil society actors to play an active role in monitoring and disseminating the peace agreement.

Huda appealed to the local chiefs to promote peace and report issues threatening peace and security at the community level. "What is required from us is the ownership of the revitalized peace agreement, and inform us on what is affecting the people at the grassroots level because we don't have

eyes to know what is going wrong at the community level," she said.

Last week, the PEC organized a two-day civic engagement constituency dialogue for community chiefs, civil society actors, women, youth, local government officials, and the army focused on how best to maintain peace and security in the area. It was sponsored by the Ugandan-based NGO Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.

**Source:** <https://radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/yei-activist-urges-government-to-promote-community-policing>

**Note from the Editor:** Victor sent an email with a more recent event the group sponsored in Kenya called Natural Medicinal Training. We will be publishing that article in our next issue.

Dear Ms. Conner,

Good evening. My name is SeYoon Yoon, the founder and CEO of Echo the Eco. I am currently a senior in high school. However, I also identify myself as a passionate environmental activist.

My team and I worked extremely hard to get thus far! Below are some achievement that I have achieved so far:

1. Initiated the Change Climate Change campaign: An educational campaign with the goal of informing 10,000 teenagers annually regarding climate disruptions,

sea level rise impacts, local action on energy efficiency, migration and shifting populations. In the 2017-2018 school year, educated more than 3,000 students in Connecticut, Los Angeles, Colorado. I also produced short videos educating the public on the realities of island-nations, potential solutions to climate crisis, and current issues concerning climate policies, which can be found on our YouTube page.

2. Donated a desalination machine to a boarding school located in South Tarawa. We raised more than \$30,000 USD

through fundraisers and crowdfunding.

3. Prior to any action, we interviewed the ex-president of Kiribati, Teburoro Tito. The interview clip can also be found on our YouTube channel.

The above are some achievements that came to my mind. This is an article published regarding my organization and our accomplishment. Thought this could give you a better idea of who we really are. (See next page)

**SeYoon Yoon**, South Korea  
[www.echotheeco.com](http://www.echotheeco.com)

# Global Warming Threatens Kiribati, Korean Youths Help

By Bang In-sung

*The Korea Herald*: October 17, 2018

Climate change has now long been a global and growing conundrum. Calls for immediate action have resulted in governments and organizations undertaking initiatives to mitigate the effects. However, there is simply no denying the overwhelming deficiency in funds and resources when tackling local collateral caused by global warming.

Take Kiribati as an example, a developing island republic in the Central Pacific constituted of 33 islands. With an average height of 2 meters above sea level, the combined force of global warming melting glaciers and climate change are expected to raise sea levels by a meter.

While most countries will not experience direct damage by the rising sea levels, Kiribati – which is already suffering from a multitude of problems, already mired in poverty, overcrowding, and poor hygiene – is sure to suffer the consequences.

Even if the sea levels do not rise as predicted, Kiribati is in imminent need of help. The residents need a new supply of clean and fresh water (Kiribati has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world, mainly due to contaminated water) and new homes due to displacements. Experts fear that as sea levels rise, Kiribati's already fragile groundwater supply will face even greater risks leading to greater consequences such as droughts that will deplete the municipal and household supply of fresh water.

In response to these problems, Echo the Eco, a student-led non-profit organization has built a desalination unit, Aquifer 360, in South Taborio, Kiribati.

The founder, SeYoon Yoon, and CFO Will Powers hope to not only establish a fully reliable and lasting supply of clean water for Kiribati, but to also further extend their efforts to other countries suffering similar scourges due to the lack of attention and resources. They have visited Kiribati to help install the desalination unit and have raised \$30,000 through fundraisers.

They are now able to provide clean freshwater to more than 400 students at a local school in Kiribati. Echo the Eco's mission is "To provide service and aid to those around the world that have been vulnerable to or will be affected by the insecurities associated with climate change, as well as educate the youth about the need



**Photo:** Bang In-sung

*CEO SeYoon Yoon (right, back row) and CFO Will Powers (left, back row), pose for a photograph after installing the Aquifer 360 desalination unit at Immaculate Hearts College in Kiribati in July.*

to halt the silent crisis of island nations."

As stated in their mission statement, Yoon and Powers are currently seeking additional funding to step up their help to others who are in dire need. COO Owen Chang has also jumped on board in September 2018 to further assist Echo the Eco's fundraising.

Echo the Eco has one simple goal in mind: To raise awareness of this little-known reality of island nations that are directly impacted by climate change. Yoon and Powers believe that it is vital that more people be educated on the damage to island nations due to climate change. To further actively raise awareness, Echo the Eco

has created a YouTube channel, "Change Climate Change" – a channel that consists of 30-second videos that educate the public regarding the impacts of climate change, scientific facts, and existing efforts that are being made. For more information, visit their website at [www.echotheeco.com](http://www.echotheeco.com).

Contact SeYoon at [social@echotheeco.com](mailto:social@echotheeco.com).

*The writer is a former student intern reporter who worked at The Korea Herald during summer. The views reflected in the article are his own. – Ed of the The Korea Herald*

**Source:** <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20181017000820>



Photo: © iStockphoto.com/MHJ

Greta Thunberg has used the phrase “The house is on fire” to convince governments and people to act quickly and urgently to fight the climate emergency. Who is it worth talking to about this issue anyhow?

## Opinion: How Do We Convince Climate Change Deniers? That’s the Wrong Question.

Instead of wasting time trying to convert opponents, we should invest it in motivating passive allies to act.

By Laalitha Surapaneni, MD  
Ensia: November 20, 2019

“How do you convince people that climate change is real?” is a question I’m invariably asked after I give a talk on climate change and health. Even as wildfires incinerate communities in California; hurricanes decimate islands, taking thousands of lives; and Qatar starts to air condition its outdoors from scorching heat, some continue to “not believe” in climate change.

I have struggled to come up with a convincing answer. Should I show them the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report? Share gut-wrenching facts on the mass extinction of species? Offer statements from trusted medical organizations?

But I know none of this would work. Research shows us that presenting scientific facts, the “information deficit model” of communication, is often not effective in changing deeply held beliefs about climate change.

So instead of asking myself how I should

convince someone of climate change, I started asking *why* instead. The answer is simple, isn’t it? If they “believe” in climate change, they will want to take action. They will cut down their carbon footprint, vote...

I lost confidence in what I was saying halfway through that sentence. As a physician, I know how difficult behavior change is. Smokers, who are well aware of the harms of cigarettes, take a long time to move from the stage of “pre-contemplation,” where they are not considering quitting smoking, to the “action” phase of quitting smoking.

When we look at climate-behavior change, an analysis by Yale Climate Communications in 2018 might give us an insight into the tedious nature of the task. The study estimated that 70% of respondents believe in climate change. But only 57% believe humans cause it. So, first, we need to convince people it’s real. Then we need to convince them it’s man-made. Then we need to motivate them to take action – action that essentially requires changing every aspect of their lives.

Well, if we don’t convince everyone that climate change is real, how do we fix it? A common misconception is that to create change, everyone needs to act. However, the data show otherwise. According to the

*Washington Post*, a Gallup Poll in 1961 showed only 28% of respondents in a U.S. survey approved of the lunch counter sit-ins and freedom buses during the Civil Rights movement. Only 57% supported same-sex marriage when the U.S. Supreme Court decided in its favor in 2015. Erica Chenoweth from Harvard University analyzed hundreds of nonviolent campaigns over the course of a century. She found that **it takes only around 3.5% of the population actively participating in civil protests to cause real political change.**

In other words, the efficient move now is to take the time and energy we want to expend on convincing deniers and use it instead to assemble the critical mass to turn the tide.

With a few exceptions – speaking truth to leaders in power and helping loved ones recognize the magnitude of the threat – we need to shift our way of approaching climate communication from changing minds to giving people already on board concrete tasks on which to take action.

An excellent way to visualize this is an advocacy tool called “Spectrum of Allies.” This tool is based on the premise that the most effective way to create social change is to convince, not vehement opponents,

**Deniers** *continued on next page*

**What happened?** A federal court ruled that the Trump administration failed to protect critically endangered North Atlantic right whales when opening nearly 3,000 square miles of previously protected New England marine waters to dangerous fishing gear known to entangle, injure, and kill right whales.

**Why it matters –** Nearly 30 North Atlantic right whales have been killed by human activity since 2017. With only around 400 left on Earth, protecting their habitat is more critical than ever. The National Marine Fisheries Service has stated that even a single death is a threat to the species' survival.

**What happens next?** The court's decision prohibits the use of something called sink gillnets – walls of mesh that entangle animals that swim into them – in two areas off the New England coast covering approximately 3,000 square miles.

**How you can help?** The truth is that this victory wouldn't have been possible without the support of people like you. Thank you. With you by our side, Earthjustice attorneys will keep holding this administration accountable when it fails to protect endangered wildlife. Give today and your new or increased gift will be matched \$1-for-\$1 by the Sandler Foundation. <https://secure.earthjustice.org/site/Donation2>



**Deniers** *continued from previous page* but people who are neutral about an issue or passively agree with you, to support your cause.

The “Global Warming’s Six Americas” 2018 survey on climate attitudes of Americans showed that 29% are “alarmed” and are taking action. Another 30% are “concerned,” and 17% are “cautious” but not taking action. The Spectrum of Allies framework suggests that for greatest impact we should focus action-oriented climate communication on the latter two groups rather than trying to convince the 18% who fall in the “doubtful” and “dismissive” categories that they’re wrong.

So, what should you do when your uncle calls climate change a liberal hoax over the Thanksgiving dinner table?

Here’s my suggestion. Estimate how many minutes you would likely invest in this “discussion.” Then – don’t. Engage about something else that connects you on shared values. And once you’re done with the interaction, use the time you didn’t spend arguing about climate change to call your legislator or write a letter to the editor. Better yet, mobilize a friend who already believes climate change is a problem. Help them set up an in-person meeting with their representative, join a protest, or build a relationship with a local environ-

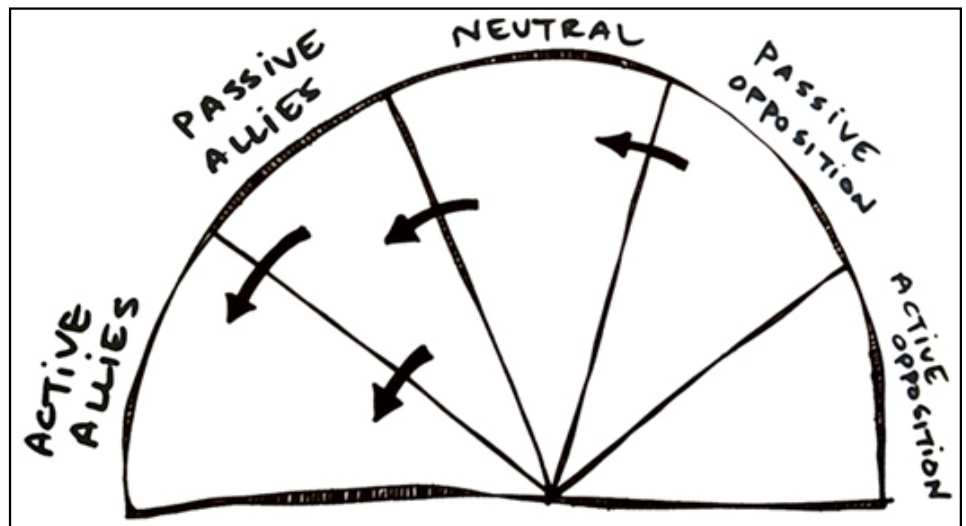


Image Courtesy 350.org

*Spectrum of Allies: “Estimate how many minutes you would likely invest in this ‘discussion.’ Then – don’t. Engage about something else that connects you on shared values. And once you’re done with the interaction, use the time you didn’t spend arguing about climate change to call your legislator or write a letter to the editor.”*

mental nonprofit.

We are past the time for convincing. It’s time to act.

**Ensia editor’s note:** The views expressed here are those of the authors and not necessarily of Ensia. We present them to further discussion around important topics.

*Laalitha Surapaneni, MD is an associate at*

*the Institute on the Environment (IonE) at the University of Minnesota, where Ensia is based and which provides funding to Ensia. Ensia is an independent publication of IonE.*

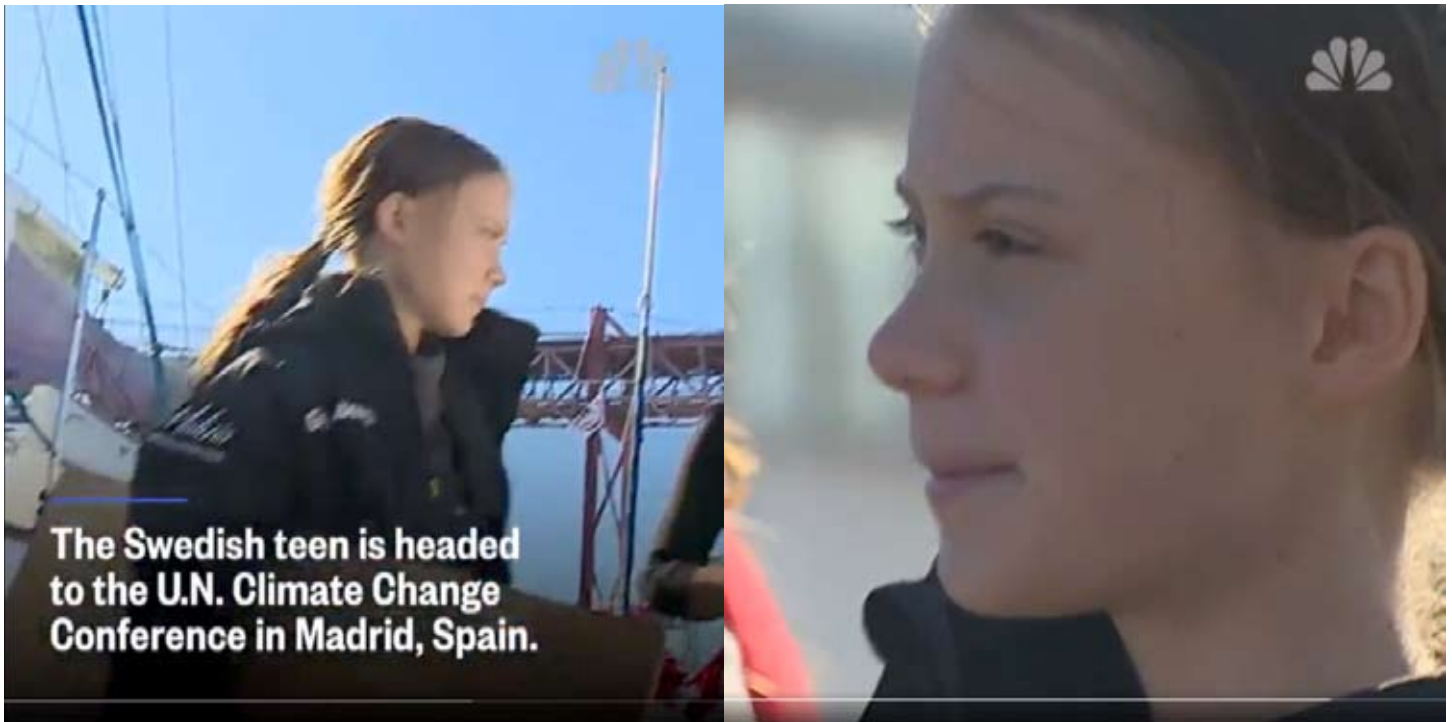
**Source:** <https://www.resilience.org/stories/2019-11-22/how-do-we-convince-climate-change-deniers-thats-the-wrong-question/>



**Greta Thunberg starts her "Friday Strike For The Climate", Stockholm, August, 2018**



**Thirteen months later, it is a worldwide movement, involving hundreds of thousands**  
**Has there ever before been a political movement that has taken off so quickly?**  
**(Started by a fifteen-year-old school girl?)**



Video by NBC News via Greta's Facebook page

*Screenshots as Greta gets off the sailboat which helped her arrive in Madrid without using fossil fuels.*

## 'People Are Underestimating the Force of Angry Kids': Greta Thunberg Returns to Europe for Climate Summit

At COP 25, Thunberg said, "We will continue the fight there to make sure that within those walls the voices of the people are being heard."

By Jessica Corbett  
Common Dreams: December 3, 2019

After three weeks of sailing across the Atlantic Ocean to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Spain, teen climate activist Greta Thunberg arrived Tuesday in neighboring Portugal, where she was welcomed by an enthusiastic crowd of supporters.

"We've all been on quite an adventure," the 16-year-old Swede told reporters in Lisbon shortly after her arrival. Thunberg has gained global recognition for her solitary protests for climate action outside the Swedish Parliament last year, which led to an international youth-led school strike movement known as Fridays for Future.

In August, Thunberg – who refuses to travel by plane – sailed from the United

Kingdom to the United States for a U.N. summit in New York City. She also toured North America, addressing members of the U.S. Congress, joining major protests, and meeting with climate activists. After the U.N. conference (COP 25) was moved from Chile to Spain, she turned to social media to find a low-carbon way to get to Madrid.

Thunberg's call for travel assistance was answered by the owners and crew of La Vagabonde, a white 48-foot catamaran that uses solar panels and hydro-generators for power. The teenager and her father Svante joined professional sailor Nikki Henderson as well as yacht owners Riley Whitelum and Elayna Carausu and their baby for the three-week journey.

"I am not traveling like this because I want everyone to do so," Thunberg explained to reporters Tuesday. "I'm doing this to sort of send the message that it is impossible to live sustainably today, and that needs to change. It needs to become much easier."

The Associated Press reported that Thunberg will spend several days in the Portuguese capital before she heads to COP 25, where representatives from gov-

ernments across the globe are discussing efforts to battle the climate crisis, including national commitments under the 2015 Paris agreement.

At the conference, Thunberg said, "We will continue the fight there to make sure that within those walls the voices of the people are being heard. I think people are underestimating the force of angry kids," she added. "If they want us to stop being angry, then maybe they should stop making us angry."

Ahead of the conference, which kicked off Monday and is scheduled to run through December 13, youth leaders organized a worldwide climate strike on Friday to pressure the COP 25 attendees to pursue more ambitious policies. Another global strike is planned for this coming Friday.

Chilean Environment Minister Carolina Schmidt – who is still serving as president of COP 25, despite the relocation – said Tuesday that she hopes Thunberg will motivate those attending the conference to back bolder climate commitments.

Schmidt told the AP that Thunberg "has been a leader that has been able to move and open hearts for many young people

**Greta** continued on page 18





Photo: Francis Chung/E&E

Jane Fonda, 81, is drawing activists to her weekly protests outside the Capitol to urge action on climate change. "Put your body on the line," she told the crowd. "What do we have to lose?"

## Boomer Grandmas Take Up Protesting for the Planet

Submitted by Allen Hengst  
Washington DC, USA

By Bev Banks, *excerpt*  
E&E News: November 8, 2019

It's not just millennials leading climate change protests – grandmothers, including film star Jane Fonda, are getting in on the action, worried about the planet becoming uninhabitable for their grandchildren. As Fonda, 81, holds her next Fire Drill Fridays demonstration on Capitol Hill today, other grandmothers across the country are also taking a stand.

"If my last breath on this Earth is working to make their lives better, that's what I do," said 74-year-old Dorothy Brandt of Washington, D.C., a climate activist who has two granddaughters, a 6-year-old and a 3-year-old. Brandt maintains a busy schedule as a climate change advocate. She attended Fonda's rally last Friday and then testified to the EPA this past Wednesday about her experiences with smog in Los Angeles and toxic waste in Tacoma, Washington. Brandt is not alone in her fight. She belongs to Moms Clean Air Force, which has drawn over 1.2 million members since it was established in 2011 ...

Geri Freedman, 68, of central Florida, couldn't agree more. Freedman is the co-chair of Elders Climate Action, an

8,000-member organization that mobilizes older people to speak up and take action on climate change. The group has chapters across the country as well as internationally in Canada, India, New Zealand, and Australia. "I have two grandchildren ages 10 and 8," Freedman said. "I look into their eyes and I know that I have to do everything that I possibly can to make sure that their generation inherits a planet that's habitable."

The planet's future habitability is a major concern for Jean Cummings, 71, of Acton, Massachusetts. Cummings belongs to Mothers Out Front, a nonprofit with 35,000 supporters in nine states. She has prioritized her activism on the effects that the fossil fuel industry has on the future of her grandsons, ages 8 and 11 ...

Fonda's weekly protests have inspired people of all ages to voice their outrage on climate change in the streets and halls of government. During her October 25<sup>th</sup> rally, Fonda encouraged the crowd to, "Put your body on the line, especially us grandmas, what do we have to lose?"

Kathleen Rall, 72, of Frederick County, Maryland, attended Fonda's protest that day because she worried that her daughter and 9-year-old grandson might one day experience an intense warming of the Earth. "We actually might be destroyed by

fire if we don't cut the emissions quickly," Rall said. "We have 10 years to cut them dramatically." After attending the November 1<sup>st</sup> demonstration, Brandt said Fonda inspired her, and she got goose bumps listening to the speakers' words. "I'm proud to see Jane Fonda step up, and she stepped up, as far as I can tell, for all the same reasons that I did," Brandt said ...

Freedman noted that Fonda's protests are connecting all generations to climate change. "It's hopefully making the point that it's all generations that care about climate change," Freedman said. "It's elders. It's youth. It's everybody. It's not one generation." Millennials and members of Generation Z (born 1982 - 1996 and 1997-on, respectively) have often blamed older generations for creating the current climate crisis ...

"My generation messed it up good," Brandt said. "I think we owe it to this new generation and the generations to come to clean it up." On the other hand, Brownling said that her generation should not be the scapegoat for all of the effects and that young people are not alone in saving the planet ...

In March, Gallup released a poll that showed demographic differences on global warming opinions. In the 18- to 29-year-

**Grandmas** *continued on next page*

## The Journey of the African Presidential Leadership Program

By Hanson G. Blayon, Liberia



The Journey that began with a long traveling from different countries to the National training Academy of Egypt.

The Journey that allows you to meet fellow young inspiring leaders in Africa

The Journey of Fun

The Journey of Experiences

The Journey of Intellectual Curiosity

The Journey that unites leaders in the beautiful land of Africa

The Journey that embraces everyone despite of their nationality, race and gender

The Journey that discovers and explores leaders in the land of Civilization

The Journey of forever memories in the land of Egypt

The Journey that is difficult to say goodbye to your teammates when it is over

The Journey of Empowerment, Leadership, Capacity Building and Networking

The Journey of the African Presidential Leadership Program.

#APLP #African Global Village #The Africa we want

**Greta** continued from page 16

and many people all over the world. We need that tremendous force in order to increase climate action,” the minister told Reuters television. “We need Greta in here with all that force.”

Bolstering arguments from both activists and policymakers that the international community needs to step up its efforts to address the climate crisis, the World Meteorological Organization on Tuesday released a new report which warned that inadequate efforts to curb planet-warming emissions could lead to a global temperature rise of 5°C by the end of the century.

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**Source:** <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2019/12/03/people-are-underestimating-force-angry-kids-greta-thunberg-returns-europe-climate>



**Note from the Editor**

I was thrilled to discover this little book at Barnes & Noble last week. I instantly picked up two of them and may buy more for Christmas presents for my family. It was less than \$10. and with my member discount, was even cheaper. It is a compilation of several of her speeches in different parts of the world.

Greta is definitely my hero. I love her and am amazed at her eloquence, strength, determination, brilliance. I know she has activated millions of people, not only students striking with Fridays for Future, but people of all generations who also care about the Earth and are fearful of what lies ahead if we don't wean ourselves rapidly from the devastating effects of fossil fuels.

I have tried to feature Greta in every single issue of *Groundswell News* since I first learned about her and will continue to do so. I hope she inspires you as she does me and I hope you buy her book! She is not profiting personally from it.

**Grandmas** continued from previous page  
old subgroups, 67% were concerned believers in contrast to 43% in the 50 to 64 age group and 47% of those 65 and older ...

After Swedish teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg came out “speaking truth to power” for the next generation, Brandt decided that she couldn't sit at home and read during her retirement. “I'm never too

tired. I'm never too sick,” Brandt said. “I'm never too old.”

**Source:** <https://www.eenews.net/stories/1061496517>

WE DON'T HAVE TO WAIT FOR SOME GRAND UTOPIAN FUTURE.  
THE FUTURE IS AN INFINITE SUCCESSION OF PRESENTS, AND TO LIVE  
NOW AS WE THINK HUMAN BEINGS SHOULD LIVE, IN DEFIANCE OF ALL  
THAT IS BAD AROUND US, IS ITSELF A MARVELOUS VICTORY.

- Howard Zinn -

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/938748-we-don-t-have-to-wait-for-some-grand-utopian-future>

# Consumer Liberation

Use it up, wear it out, make it  
do, or do without.

*Join The Go-Back Club today!*

*Email Iona at [gobackclub@pa.net](mailto:gobackclub@pa.net) and she will put you on our email list to receive monthly issues of our climate activist newspaper.*



## **Groundswell News**

An activist publication bringing readers struggles and successes as well as climate-change news in the U.S. and around the globe. People everywhere are working to make change. Our beautiful newspaper will inspire and encourage you. Sign up today at [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org) or email [ionaconner@pa.net](mailto:ionaconner@pa.net). It's free but donations are gladly accepted. A project of the 501(c)(3) Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice. Photo <https://www.google.com/search>

## *Groundswell News* **Now Accepting Ads**

Please consider placing your ad with us. As we are an alternative newspaper, we have an alternative ad policy. Send me your material and pay what you feel is reasonable, depending on how much space your ad needs. If your ad requires some of my time to create it for you, there will be an extra charge. If you can afford \$50 for half a page and \$100 for a full page, that will be wonderful. Our distribution is small now but we hope to grow quickly and our readers are wonderfully supportive people!

*Thank you.*



*Remember your dreams.*



## Messages from Our Friends



**Dear Iona,**

After a long year...I am heading in the home stretch to a Premier. Oh, how I wish you were closer and could attend...but after the Premier, I will be able to share the rest of the piece. I did start a petition to tag with the work and all the information is below. I hope you are both well and healthy!! Holiday Blessings, I will keep you posted:) Wish me luck...I have a Go Fund Me to go with this...and will apply for grants for distribution when I am done, and try to find speaking engagements that will bring some revenue.

I am sure God has a plan.

**Diane Christin**, Pennsylvania USA

The Green Connection Documentary - Making a Change for Climate Change Premier Preview - The Land [https://youtu.be/c\\_F1ALH5FuU](https://youtu.be/c_F1ALH5FuU)  
Member Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators

This film addresses how communities, the people, and their leaders, the men, and woman who craft their communities, that put our green infrastructure and best practices into place are making changes for climate change.

As the founder of the children's environmental organization, Children's Gardens Butterflies for Kids, that morphed into I Am A Planet Kid ([www.iamaplanetkid.org](http://www.iamaplanetkid.org)), that spun out Plant it Forward Community Tree Planting Initiative, I continued to see the evolution of worst environmental infrastructure practices within our communities.

I saw a lack of education and shocking and growing propaganda negating the environmental climate education of our own [www.NOAA.climate.gov](http://www.NOAA.climate.gov), that is aligned with the Paris Climate Agreement.

This documentary is to be a green toolbox of sorts. A how-to-help repair and rebuild the tragedy of climate events that have created destruction and wiped out infrastructure.

This documentary is about, and highlights, moving forward with prudent planning and most of all the ordinances

and tools that will make the difference in all communities.

We all connect to make one country, one world. One Planet. And, countries are working together in the awareness that the dark forces of fossil fuels are the Darth Vader of our planet.

Together, we can work to combat these dark forces and turn them into a green plan for the good of the whole. Green Infrastructure. Renewables. To name just a few.

My onboard team of professionals within the documentary comprises the boots-on-the-ground green professionals. From foresters to research scientists, to citizens working to build their green infrastructure within their communities. I owe a great thanks to all these hard-working and dedicated people for coming on board for this important work. It has been a year-long endeavor of massive cooperation and to all of you I owe gratitude, for this documentary is your best practices brought to the people of a planet.

I also give acknowledgment to Sarah-Charlop Powers, whose comment within the U.S.Forestry Webinar "Rekindling The Forest in Our Cities" was inspiration to begin this body of work.

Her comment, "There is a disconnect between governance and the boots-on-the-ground people" was the driving impetus compelling me to begin this work. I was among those boots-on-the-ground people for 20 plus years. The frustration is mirrored throughout a world.

It is time that we make the connection of the best practices that exist, and connect those best practices to all communities. To all countries. For the sake of our children's future. Our collective home, this One Planet. It's the address we all share - "Address Earth - Handle with Care": [www.addressearth.com](http://www.addressearth.com)

**Facebook:** The Green Connection Documentary

**Change.org petition:** <http://chnng.it/ftHfQFNL>

**Pennsylvania Parks and Streets Climate Preservation Act with a People's**

**Petition:** <https://www.facebook.com/PAClimateConsortium/>

*(second email)*

I am so glad you loved it!!!!!!

I have been living on the financial fray doing this. However, this is the fundraiser to continue to develop it and distribute it. If you can contribute or know anyone that won the lottery, please go to my Go Fund Me link below. I am desperate for funding at this point..have only had the life minutes to produce this and still have to finish the ending with credits that will be most powerful!

**Trailer:** <https://youtu.be/edgHSoifRbA>

**Prologue:** <https://youtube/83996kdRVNw>

Your donation will assist the production and distribution of the Green Connection Documentary, scheduled for release 2019.

Donations can be made by a person, a company, an organization, or an "In Memory Legacy Donation."

**Underwriter:** \$5,000 = Lead in closing credits

**Sponsor:** \$1,000 = Name included below major underwriter

**Donor:** \$500 = Name included below underwriters

**Supporter:** Under \$500. = Appear as a general thank you to all supporters

**GoFundMeLink:** <https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-green-connection-documentary>

Your donation connects you to this documentary.

You turn on the news and it is there – another extreme climate event destroying a community, and often with the tragic consequences of loss of property and lives. No country or continent has been exempt from our climate crisis. Climate Change is the leading cause of immigration. ([www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)). The real CRISIS is that the President of the U.S. pulled US out of the Paris Climate Agreement. A world is on board with this cohesive global plan.

The Green Connection is not another tragedy story, but speaks to the plans to-  
**Messages continued on next page**

## Messages *continued from previous page*

ward making a change for climate change. It brings the education from our nation's NOAA ([www.climate.gov](http://www.climate.gov)) and worldwide climate educational organizations like [www.wmo.int](http://www.wmo.int), [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch), [www.si.climate.edu](http://www.si.climate.edu), [www.foundationforsustainableforess.org](http://www.foundationforsustainableforess.org), and the inventive action of organizations and individuals and states.

The documentary is a critical component for making a change for climate change. Too many communities are not connected with climate education and best practices. In many communities, the education does not exist. THAT is a very real and serious disconnect that must change with pro-active plans.

We are at a critical juncture to drive the importance of climate education and pro active action where there is a vacuous lack of climate education.

## Solutions

The Green Connection weaves a story of SOLUTIONS, the people and their leaders, the environmental men and woman who are working to build inventive green infrastructure, save our oceans, and those who are creating renewable energy solutions.

## United Nations

"Climate Change is the defining issue of our time and we are at a defining moment. From shifting weather patterns that threaten food production, to rising sea levels that increase the risk of catastrophic flooding, the impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale. Without drastic action today, adapting to these impacts in the future will be more difficult and costly." <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/climate-change/>

## The World Meteorological Organization

In Collaboration with United Nations Agencies on Climate, WMO formed the IPCC. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. (<https://www.ipcc.ch>)

The WMO Statement on the State of the Global Climate in 2018: [https://library.wmo.int/doc\\_num.php?explnum\\_id=5789](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=5789). "Extreme weather had an impact on lives and sustainable development on every continent." ([https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice\\_display&id=20799#.XQWsDi-ZOqQ](https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=20799#.XQWsDi-ZOqQ))

The Green Connection is to be a collective green tool box of how to execute plans to make a change for climate change and move forward with prudent planning and best practices that will make a difference in all communities.

We cannot build, and rebuild, without best practices.

Organizations and professionals that will be within the educational platform include NOAA [www.climate.gov](http://www.climate.gov), [www.toolbox.climate.gov](http://www.toolbox.climate.gov), The Smithsonian, D.C., Sant Ocean Hall, The World Meteorological Organization that formed the IPCC, the platform for The Paris Climate Accord.

Our world is connected by governances of Boroughs, Townships, Cities, Provinces and States. However, collectively we are Address EARTH. We must begin to think globally.

YOU can become a team member and bring education to make a change for climate change with your donation.

Thank you for joining our green team with your donation!

**PayPal:** Address EARTH email: [addressearth1@gmail.com](mailto:addressearth1@gmail.com)

## Checks and money orders:

Address EARTH  
Erie, PA 16505

## The Green Connection Documentary:

<https://youtu.be/IZ-cLZkkMz8>

## Putting the real costs of climate change

**in context in the U.S.:** <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/beyond-data/2018s-billion-dollar-disasters-context>

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) tracks U.S. weather and climate events that have great economic and societal impacts. Since 1980, the U.S. has sustained 241 weather and climate disasters where the overall damage costs reached or exceeded \$1 billion (including adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index, as of January 2019). The cumulative cost for these 241 events exceeds \$1.6 trillion.

During 2018, the U.S. experienced a very active year of weather and climate disasters. In total, the U.S. was impacted by 14 separate billion-dollar disaster events: two tropical cyclones, eight severe storms, two winter storms, droughts, and wildfires. The

past three years (2016-2018) have been historic, with the annual average number of billion-dollar disasters being more than double the long-term average. The number and cost of disasters are increasing over time due to a combination of increased exposure, vulnerability, and the fact the climate change is increasing the frequency of some types of extremes that lead to billion-dollar disasters.

**Climate Change Pushing People to Poverty Worldwide:** <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/climatechange/overview>

Without urgent action, climate impacts could push an additional 100 million people into poverty by 2030. By 2050, it could mean that as many as 143 million people across three developing regions will become climate migrants, with individuals, families, and even whole communities forced to seek more viable and less vulnerable places to live.

The impact of extreme natural disasters is equivalent to a global \$520 billion loss in annual consumption, and forces some 26 million people into poverty each year.

Climate change is already having real and measurable impacts on human health, with impacts expected to grow. Air pollution is responsible for more than 7 million premature deaths each year. Direct costs to health could be as high as \$4 billion per year by 2030.

Climate change will not only make it more difficult to feed the projected 10 billion people by 2050 but its impact is already being felt in the form of reduced yields and more frequent extreme weather events that affect crops and livestock.

I am praying to get some speaking engagements now. It has been a year of my life and tho my equipment was not the best...and I had some skill sets that could have been more honed...I gave it all my best and I made some transitions that are unique to my work and the documentary.  
**Diane Christin**, Pennsylvania USA



**Messages** *continued from previous page*

**Dear Iona,**

It is amazing and so encouraging to see the explosive development of the youth movement for fighting climate change. A year ago, when then 15-year-old Greta Thunberg sat down outside the Swedish parliament building instead of going to school that Friday, who would have thought it would grow into a worldwide movement in a year, with Greta speaking to government assemblies in several countries?

Even Trump and his billionaire coal and oil industry supporters must now worry about the tsunami-dimension wave of environmental concern that is rising in the young. It will have a huge impact in the 2020 elections. Many of these young people will be able to vote in 2020, and they are now putting the climate change issue on center stage also for the older generations.  
**Anders Eklof**, Sweden

After reading your latest issue of *Groundswell News*, I felt I had to contact you as it seems that both *Groundswell News* and Little Citizens for Climate have the same mission, which is to educate and enlighten people about climate change through scientific articles.

Little Citizens For Climate focuses on the

following three areas: to Act, to Exchange, to Learn.

The main idea is to disseminate knowledge to raise young people's awareness of environmental issues.

We aim to offer them on video media, in collaboration with experts, sufficient knowledge to structure their thinking and analysis on these essential topics.

We offer a series of videos with young people and scientists from their city/region/territory to highlight the specific issues they are facing and the actors who are addressing them.

Indeed, the subjects are complex, the solutions not always easy to integrate. However, an informal dialogue between a young person and a scientist is very often well received and understood.

We have a very important direct and indirect distribution network:

- Social networks: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn
- Website <https://www.littlecitizensforclimate.org>
- Partner groups: Teachers in transition (12,000 members), CPLC (75,000 members) etc...
- Institutional networks: French Development Agency, European Climate Agency,

UNESCO

• Miscellaneous: REFEDD, Avenir Climatique, Avenir Lycéen, les Scouts et Guides de France, La Bascule etc...

Our videos are intended for teachers to be broadcast in class and followed by debates but also for the general public.

Some examples:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tPuD3LbhXA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKsJzctxvZY&t=5s>

We are of course at your disposal to discuss more widely on a possible collaboration and answer all your questions if you have some.

Kind regards,

Laetitia

International relations/Translations

**Email:** [laetitia@littlecitizensforclimate.org](mailto:laetitia@littlecitizensforclimate.org)



## Good-bye Gift for Iona from Carson Walters, Pennsylvania USA



**Note from the Editor:** Carson and I worked together as cashiers for almost two years. He is an artist studying to become a teacher. When he knew I was moving, he asked me what he could draw for me. I told him I want to come back as a Turkey Vulture because I love watching them glide on air currents. I also told him I like to eat raw meat but that's not a politically correct thing for me to say and I rarely do that. These birds are scavengers; so am I!