



## “MESSAGE TO DAVOS ELITES”<sup>1</sup>

“Act as if our house is on fire - because it is.”<sup>1</sup>

“I am here to say, our house is on fire. According to the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), we are less than 12 years away from not being able to undo our mistakes. In that time, unprecedented changes in all aspects of society need to have taken place, including a reduction of our CO2 emissions by at least 50%.”

“At places like Davos, people like to tell success stories. But their financial success has come with an unthinkable price tag. And on Climate Change, we have to acknowledge we have failed. All political movements in their present form have done so, and the media has failed to create broad public awareness.”

“But Homo sapiens have not yet failed.”

“Yes, we are failing, but there is still time to turn everything around. We can still fix this. But unless we recognize the overall failures of our current systems, we most probably don't stand a chance.”



We are facing a disaster of unspoken sufferings for enormous amounts of people. And now is not the time for speaking politely or focusing on what we can or cannot say. Now is the time to speak clearly. Solving the climate crisis is the greatest and most complex challenge that Homo sapiens have ever faced. The main solution, however, is so simple that even a small child can understand it.”

“We have to stop our emissions of greenhouse gases.”

“Either we do that or we don't. You say nothing in life is black or white. But that is a lie. A very dangerous lie. Either we prevent 1.5C of warming or we don't. Either we avoid setting off that irreversible chain reaction beyond human control or we don't. Either we choose to go on as a civilization or we don't. That is as black or white as it gets. There are no grey areas when it comes to survival. We all have a choice. We can create transformational action that will safeguard the living conditions for future generations. Or we can continue with our business as usual and fail.”

“That is up to you and me.”

“Some say we should not engage in activism. Instead we should leave everything to our politicians and just vote for a change instead. But what do we do when there is no political will? What do we do when the politics needed are nowhere in sight?”

“Here in Davos - just like everywhere else - everyone is talking about money. It seems money and growth are our only main concerns.”

“And since the Climate Crisis has never once been treated as a crisis, people are simply not aware of the full consequences on our everyday life”

People are not aware that there is such a thing as a carbon budget, and just how incredibly small that remaining carbon budget is.”

“That needs to change today.”

“No other current challenge can match the importance of establishing a wide, public awareness and understanding of our rapidly disappearing carbon budget, that should and must become our new global currency and the very heart of our future and present economics. We are at a time in history where everyone with any insight of the Climate Crisis that threatens our civilization—and the entire biosphere—must speak out in clear language, no matter how uncomfortable and unprofitable that may be.”

“We must change almost everything in our current societies. The bigger your carbon footprint the bigger your moral duty. The bigger your platform the bigger your responsibility.”

“Adults keep saying: “We owe it to the young people to give them hope.” But I don’t want your hope. I don’t want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day.”

“And then I want you to act.”

“I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if our house is on fire - because it is.”<sup>1</sup>

The above is a slightly edited version of an address delivered by 16-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg to attendees at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Thunberg . G (2018)

My message to Davos Elites.

Common Dreams

<https://www.commondreams.org/views/2019/01/25/my-message-davos-elites-act-if-our-house-fire-because-it#>

