

DÉCOUVRIR EN ANGLAIS LES PRINCIPAUX DISCOURS DE GRETA THUNBERG

DISCOURS À LA COP 24 À KATOWICE LE 14 DÉCEMBRE 2018

“My name is Greta Thunberg. I am 15 years old. I am from Sweden. I speak on behalf of Climate Justice Now.

Many people say that Sweden is just a small country and it doesn't matter what we do. But I've learned you are never too small to make a difference. And if a few children can get headlines all over the world just by not going to school, then imagine what we could all do together if we really wanted to.

But to do that, we have to speak clearly, no matter how uncomfortable that may be. You only speak of green eternal economic growth because you are too scared of being unpopular. You only talk about moving forward with the same bad ideas that got us into this mess, even when the only sensible thing to do is pull the emergency brake. You are not mature enough to tell it like it is. Even that burden you leave to us children. But I don't care about being popular. I care about climate justice and the living planet. Our civilization is being sacrificed for the opportunity of a very small number of people to continue making enormous amounts of money. Our biosphere is being sacrificed so that rich people in countries like mine can live in luxury. It is the sufferings of the many which pay for the luxuries of the few.

The year 2078, I will celebrate my 75th birthday. If I have children maybe they will spend that day with me. Maybe they will ask me about you. Maybe they will ask why you didn't do anything while there still was time to act. You say you love your children above all else, and yet you are stealing their future in front of their very eyes.

Until you start focusing on what needs to be done rather than what is politically possible, there is no hope. We can't solve a crisis without treating it as a crisis. We need to keep the fossil fuels in the ground, and we need to focus on equity. And if solutions within the system are so impossible to find, maybe we should change the system itself. We have not come here to beg world leaders to care. You have ignored us in the past and you will ignore us again. We have run out of excuses and we are running out of time. We have come here to let you know that change is coming, whether you like it or not. The real power belongs to the people.

Thank you.”

Sources :

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

<https://www.lifegate.com/greta-thunberg-speech-cop24>

DISCOURS “I WANT YOU TO PANIC” AU FORUM DE DAVOS LE 25 JANVIER 2019

“Our house is on fire. I am here to say our house is on fire.

According to the IPCC, we are less than twelve 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%. And please note that those numbers do not include the aspect of equity, which is absolutely necessary to make the Paris Agreement work on a global scale, nor does it include tipping points or feedback loops like the extreme[ly] powerful methane gas released from the thawing Arctic permafrost.

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 that 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. We still have everything in our own hands. 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. And 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 a 1.5 degree 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 gray areas when it comes to survival. We all have a choice. We can create transformational action that will safeguard the future living conditions for humankind. Or we can continue with our business as usual, and fail. That is up to you and me.

Some say that we should not engage in activism. Instead we should leave everything to our politicians and just vote for 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 that money and growth are our only main concerns. And since the climate crisis is a crisis that 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. And 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 a new global currency and the very heart of future and present economics. We are now 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 is, 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 the house was on fire. Because it is.”

Sources :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U72xkMz6Pxx>

<http://opentranscripts.org/transcript/greta-thunberg-world-economic-forum-2019/>

DISCOURS AU PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN À STRASBOURG LE 16 AVRIL 2019

"My name is Greta Thunberg. I am 16 years old. I come from Sweden and I want you to panic.

I want you to act as if your house was on fire. I have said those words before And a lot of people has explained why that is a bad idea. A great number of politicians have told me that panic never leads to anything good. And I agree. To panic unless you have to is a terrible idea. But when your house is on fire and you want to keep your house from burning to the ground, then that does require some level of panic. Our civilization is so fragile. It is almost like a castle built in the sand. The facade is so beautiful. But the foundations are far from solid. We have been cutting so many corners. Yesterday the world watched with despair and enormous sorrow how the Notre Dame burnt in Paris. Some buildings are much more than just buildings. But the Notre Dame will be rebuilt. I hope that it's foundations are strong. I hope that our foundations are even stronger. But I fear that they are not.

Around the year 2030. 10 years 259 days and 10 hours way from now. We will be in a position where we set off an irreversible chain reaction beyond human control, that will most likely lead to the end of our civilization as we know it. That is unless in that time, permanent and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society have taken place. Including a reduction of CO2 emissions by at least 50%. And please note that these calculations are depending on inventions that have not yet been invented at scale, inventions that are supposed to clear our atmosphere of astronomical amounts of carbon dioxide. Furthermore do these calculations not include unforeseen tipping points and feedback loops like the extremely powerful methane gas escaping from rapidly thawing arctic permafrost. Nor do they include already locked in warming hidden by air pollution. Nor the aspect of equity - or climate justice - clearly stated throughout the Paris Agreement, which is absolutely necessary to make it work on a global scale. We must also bear in mind that these are just calculations. Estimations. That means that these "points of no return" may occur a bit sooner or later than 2030. No one can know for sure. We can however be certain that they will occur approximately in these time frames. Because these calculations are not opinions or wild guesses. These projections are backed up by scientific facts, concluded by all nations through the IPCC. Nearly every major national scientific body around the world unreservedly supports the work and findings of the IPCC. We are in the midst of the sixth mass extinction and the extinction rate is up to ten thousand times faster than what is considered normal, with up to 200 species becoming extinct every single day. Erosion of fertile topsoil, deforestation of our great forests, toxic air pollution, loss of insects and wildlife, the acidification of our oceans - these are all disastrous trends being accelerated by a way of life that we, here in our financially-fortunate part of the world, see as our right to simply carry on.

But hardly anyone knows about these catastrophes - or understand how they are just the first few symptoms of climate- and ecological breakdown. Because how could they? They have not been told. Or more importantly: they have not been told by the right people - and in the right way. Our house is falling apart. And our leaders need to start acting accordingly. Because at the moment they are not. If our house was falling apart our leaders wouldn't go on like you do today. You would change almost every part of your behavior. As you do in an emergency. If our house was falling apart you wouldn't fly around the world in business class chatting about how the market will solve everything with clever small solutions to specific isolated problems. You wouldn't talk about buying and building your way out of a crisis that has been created by buying and building things. If our house was falling apart you wouldn't hold 3 emergency Brexit summits and no emergency summit regarding the breakdown of the climate and ecosystems. You wouldn't be arguing about phasing out coal in 15 or 11 years. If our house was falling apart you wouldn't be celebrating that one single nation like Ireland may soon divest from fossil fuels. You wouldn't celebrate that Norway has decided to stop drilling for oil outside the scenic resort of Lofoten Island, but will continue to drill everywhere else for decades. It's 30 years too late for that kind of celebrations. If our house was falling apart the media wouldn't be writing about anything else. The ongoing climate- and ecological crises would make up all the headlines. If our house was falling apart you wouldn't say that you have the situation under control and place the future living conditions for all living species in the hands of inventions that are yet to be invented. And you would not spend all your time as politicians arguing over taxes or Brexit. If the walls of our house truly came tumbling down, surely you would set your differences aside and start cooperating. Well, our house is falling apart. And we are rapidly running out of time. And, yet basically nothing is happening.

Everyone and everything has to change so why waste precious time arguing about what and who needs to change first? Everyone and everything has to change. But the bigger your platform the bigger your responsibility. The bigger your carbon footprint the bigger your moral duty. When I tell politicians to act now the most common answer is that they can't do anything drastic, because that would be too unpopular among voters. And they are right of course. Since most people are not even aware of why those changes are required. That is why I keep telling you to unite behind the science - make the best available science the heart of politics and democracy. The EU elections are coming up soon. And many of us who will be affected the most by this crisis, people like me, are not allowed to vote. Nor are we in a position to shape the decisions of business, politics, engineering, media, education or science. Because the time it takes for us to educate ourselves to do that simply does no longer exists. And that is why millions of children are taking it to the streets, school striking for the climate to create attention for the climate crisis.

You need to listen to us - we who cannot vote. You need to vote for us, for your children and grandchildren. What we are doing now can soon no longer be undone. In this election you vote for the future living conditions of human kind. And though the politics needed do not exist today, some alternatives are certainly less worse than others. And I have read in newspapers that some parties do not even want me standing here today because they so desperate do not to talk about climate breakdown. Our house is falling part. The future - as well as all that we have achieved in the past - is literally in your hands now. But it is not too late to act. It will take a far-reaching vision. It will take courage. It will take a fierce determination to act now to lay the foundations when we may not know all of the details about how to shape the ceiling. In other words, it will take 'cathedral thinking'. I ask you to please wake up and make the required changes possible. To do your best is no longer good enough. We must all do the seemingly impossible.

And it's okay if you refuse to listen to me. I am after all just a 16 year-old schoolgirl from from Sweden. But you can not ignore the scientists. Or the science. Or the millions of schoolchildren school striking for the right to a future."

Sources :

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<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/resources/library/media/20190416RES41665/20190416RES41665.pdf>

DISCOURS “HOW DARE YOU” À L’ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE DE L’ONU À NEW YORK LE 23 SEPTEMBRE 2019

“My message is that we’ll be watching you. This is all wrong. I shouldn’t be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you!

You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. And yet I’m one of the lucky ones. People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!

For more than 30 years, the science has been crystal clear. How dare you continue to look away and come here saying that you’re doing enough, when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight. You say you hear us and that you understand the urgency. But no matter how sad and angry I am, I do not want to believe that. Because if you really understood the situation and still kept on failing to act, then you would be evil. And that I refuse to believe. The popular idea of cutting our emissions in half in 10 years only gives us a 50% chance of staying below 1.5 degrees [Celsius], and the risk of setting off irreversible chain reactions beyond human control. Fifty percent may be acceptable to you. But those numbers do not include tipping points, most feedback loops, additional warming hidden by toxic air pollution or the aspects of equity and climate justice. They also rely on my generation sucking hundreds of billions of tons of your CO2 out of the air with technologies that barely exist. So a 50% risk is simply not acceptable to us -- we who have to live with the consequences.

To have a 67% chance of staying below a 1.5 degrees global temperature rise -- the best odds given by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] -- the world had 420 gigatons of CO2 left to emit back on Jan. 1, 2018. Today that figure is already down to less than 350 gigatons. How dare you pretend that this can be solved with just “business as usual” and some technical solutions? With today’s emissions levels, that remaining CO2 budget will be entirely gone within less than eight and a half years. There will not be any solutions or plans presented in line with these figures here today, because these numbers are too uncomfortable. And you are still not mature enough to tell it like it is.

You are failing us. But the young people are starting to understand your betrayal. The eyes of all future generations are upon you. And if you choose to fail us, I say: We will never forgive you. We will not let you get away with this. Right here, right now is where we draw the line. The world is waking up. And change is coming, whether you like it or not.

Thank you.”

Sources :

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<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Environment/How-dare-you-Transcript-of-Greta-Thunberg-s-UN-climate-speech>