

Speech in United Nations

中学校 3年 相 山 由 衣

Hello, I'm Severn Suzuki.

I am here to speak on behalf of the starving children around the world whose cries go unheard. I am here to speak for the countless animals dying across this planet because they have nowhere left to go. We cannot afford to be not heard.

I am afraid to go out in the sun now because of the holes in the ozone. I am afraid to breathe the air because I don't know what chemicals are in it.

In my life, I have dreamt of seeing the great herds of wild animals, jungles and rainforests full of birds and butterflies. But now, I wonder if they will even exist for my children to see.

Did you have to worry about these little things when you were my age? All this is happening before our eyes and yet we act as if we have all the time we want and all the solutions. I'm only a child and I don't have all the solutions, but I want you to realize, neither do you!

You don't know how to fix the holes in the ozone layer. You don't know how to bring back an animal now extinct.

If you don't know how to fix it, please stop breaking it!

I'm only a child, yet I know we are all part of a family, five billion strong, in fact 30 million species strong and we all share the same air, water, and soil. Borders and governments will never change that.

I'm only a child, yet I know we are all in this together and should act as one single world towards one single goal. In my anger I am not blind and in my fear, I am not afraid to tell the world how I feel.

In my country, we make so much waste, we buy and throw away, buy and throw away, and yet northern countries will not share with the needy. Even when we have more than enough, we are afraid to lose some of our wealth, afraid to share.

In Brazil, we were shocked when spent some time with some children

living on the streets. And this is what one child told us “I wish I was rich, and if I were, I would give all the street children food, clothes, medicine, shelter and love and affection.”

If a child on the street who has nothing, is willing to share, why are we who has everything still so greedy?

I’m only a child, yet I know if all the money spent on war was spent on ending poverty and finding environmental answers, what a wonderful place this earth would be!

At school even in kindergarten, you teach us to behave in the world. You teach us,

- not to fight with others
- to work things out
- to respect others
- to clean up our mess
- not to hurt other creatures
- to share-not be greedy

Then why do you go out and do things you tell us not to do?

You are deciding what kind of world we will grow up in. Parents should be able to comfort their children by saying “everything’s going to be alright” “we’re doing the best we can” and “it’s not the end of the world.”

But I don’t think you can say that to us anymore. Are we even on your list of priorities? My father always says “You are what you do, not what you say”

Well, what you do makes me cry at night. You grown ups say you love us. I challenge you; please make your actions reflect your words.

Thank you for listening.