



# Disability: Leadership, Resistance and Culture

## Greta Thunberg – No One Is Too Small To Make a Difference



*“I have Asperger’s Syndrome, and to me, almost everything is black and white....If people knew that the scientists say that we have a 5% chance of meeting the Paris target, and if people knew what a nightmare scenario we will face if we don’t keep global warming below 2° C, they wouldn’t need to ask me why I’m on school strike.”*

Greta is a teenager who started protesting outside the Swedish Parliament at 15 years. Within 1 year, 6 million people worldwide took part in climate strikes. Parliaments, politicians and the general public are now treating climate emergency much more seriously because of her.

“I think in many ways that we autistic people are the normal ones and the rest of the people are pretty strange. They keep saying that climate change is an existential threat and the most important issue of all. And yet they just carry on like before. If the emissions have to stop, then we must stop the emissions. To me that is black and white. There are no grey areas when it comes to survival. Either we go on as a civilisation or we don’t...”

That means that rich countries need to get down to zero emissions, so that people in poorer countries can heighten their standard of living by building some of the infrastructure that we have already built... We are in the midst of the sixth mass extinction, with about 200 species going extinct every single day...

When I was about 8 years old, I first heard about something called climate change, or global warming. Apparently, that was something humans had created by our way of living. I was told to turn off the lights to save energy, and to recycle paper to save resources. I remember thinking that it was very strange that humans, who are an animal species among others, could be capable of changing the earth’s climate... Because, if we were and if it was really happening, we wouldn’t be talking about anything else. As soon as you turned on the TV, everything would be about that...

The climate and the biosphere don’t care about our politics and our empty words. They only care about what we actually do... To all the politicians that ridicule us on social media so that people tell me I’m retarded and a terrorist... To all of you who choose to look the other way every day...Your silence is almost worst of all. The future of all coming generations rests on your shoulders.“

