

The Voice of a Generation

As she stood there passionately pleading for her generation, the emotions on her face are a mixture of pain, anger, and sadness. At just Sixteen years old Greta Thunberg captured the attention of the entire audience of adults at the United Nations in New York on Monday afternoon. Greta Thunberg is a young environmental activist from Sweden and who coincidentally has Asperger's Syndrome. While most of the conservative right choose to call it a disability, Thunberg is very outspoken about her condition, even calling it her *"Superpower."*

The environmental speech was part of a meeting between the United Nations and crucial youth activists in an attempt to bring more awareness to the current crisis. Incidentally, the assembly meeting followed just days after millions of young people around the world participated school walk-outs aimed at taking emergency action to combat climate change.

Thunberg ripped into the assembly for their blatant betrayal and disregard for future generations who have to live in a world that will no longer exist by the time they reach adulthood. She could be seen as visibly distraught while delivering her message about climate change. In her speech, she noted that it *"wasn't right,"* and she *"shouldn't"* be there, declaring she should be in school. Thunberg does not solely feel this situation as children around the world share in both her anxiety and fears for tomorrow. She continued by describing how they (adults) come to her generation for hope while destroying her generation's future. *"You have stolen my dream and my childhood,"* Thunberg angrily listed while holding back tears. She revealed to the U.N. that their promises of change were condescending and filled with empty words by telling them *"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 assembly cheered her on when she stated: *"If you fail us, we will never forgive you."*

She then pointed out that the science on climate change was precise. While the U.N. did nothing, people were continuing to die; ecosystems were collapsing, and the world is at the beginning of mass extinction. In a world filled with politics and bureaucracy, Thunberg made sure that the United Nations assembly knew that we are past the time for both.

Dismally, the politics and legislature needed to fix the problem are not in existence and those that are, are woefully inadequate. This point, not being lost on Thunberg, quoted the U.N.'s IPCC Report, explaining that *"Cutting emissions in half in ten years only gives her contemporaries a 50% chance of staying below the 1.5°, at the risk of setting off irreversible chain reactions, beyond human control."*

Not surprisingly her message has gone viral, and has become known as the "How dare you?" speech that has finally put a voice and a face to the climate change movement. It's also no wonder that she is being nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. At Sixteen years old, Greta Thunberg has already accomplished what would take most adults their entire career to do, and that is to make people listen.