

Severn Suzuki Speech

I am here to speak for all generations to come. I am here to speak for the starving children and countless animals dying across this planet because they have nowhere left to go.

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 but we act as if we have all the time we want and all the answers. I'm only a child and I don't have all the answers, but neither do you! You don't know how to bring the salmon back up a dead stream or how to bring back an animal now extinct and you can't bring back the forest that once grew where there is now a desert. If you don't know how to fix it, please stop breaking it!

I'm only a child but I know we are all part of a family and we all share the same air, water and soil – borders and governments will never change that. I'm only a child but I know we are all in this together and should act as one world towards one goal. If all the money spent on war was spent on ending poverty and helping the environment, what a wonderful place this earth would be!

You teach us to respect others, to share and to not be greedy. Then why do you do the things you tell us not to do? You are deciding what kind of world we will grow up in. I challenge you, please make your actions reflect your words.

Malala Speech

Dear brothers and sisters, Malala Day is not my day. Today is the day of every woman, every boy, and every girl who has raised their voice for their rights. I am here to speak up for the right of education for every child.

Dear sisters and brothers, we realize the importance of light when we see darkness. We realize the importance of our voice when we are silenced. In the same way, we realized the importance of pens and books when we saw the guns. The wise saying, “The pen is mightier than the sword” was true.

Today, we call upon the world leaders to change their policies in favor of peace.

We call upon the world leaders to protect women and children’s rights.

We call upon all governments to ensure free education for every child.

We call upon all communities to be tolerant.

We must not forget that millions of people are suffering from poverty, injustice and ignorance. We must not forget that millions of children are out of school. We must not forget that our sisters and brothers are waiting for a bright, peaceful future.

Dear brothers and sisters, we want schools and education for every child’s bright future and we will continue our journey to our destination of peace and education for everyone. No one can stop us. We will speak for our rights and we will bring change through our voice. We must believe in the power and the strength of our words. Our words can change the world.

So, let us wage a global struggle against illiteracy, poverty and terrorism and let us pick up our books and pens. They are our most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world. Education is the only solution. Education First.