

We Are Your Children

Hello, I'm speaking for "ECO" -- the Environmental Children's Organization. We are a group of 12 and 13 year-olds who have raised our own money to come here and tell you adults to please change your ways. I am speaking on behalf of the starving children who are crying out unheard. I am speaking for the countless animals dying across this planet who have nowhere left to go. I am speaking for all the generations to come.

I am afraid to stand under the sun because of the holes in the ozone. I am afraid to breathe outside because of the chemicals in the air. Did you have to worry about these 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; I don't know how to fix the ozone layer, to bring back extinct animals, or how to change deserts back into forests. But please realize that neither do you, and if you don't know how to fix it, please stop breaking it!

We are your children, and you are deciding what kind of world we will grow up in. You should be telling us: "Everything's going to be all right; it's not the end of the world. We're doing the best we can." But I don't think you can say that to us anymore. 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. Today I want to challenge you: please, make your actions reflect your words.

Thank you.

(288 words)