

Words for Your World

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The heatwave last week was lovely, wasn't it? A heatwave in March! Who would have thought?! You may have complained; 'it's too hot,' so did I! But this is nothing compared to some other extreme weathers though, like cyclones and typhoons in Asia, droughts in Africa or floods in Europe. 16 million children in East Africa and Asia are at an emergency point due to droughts and food shortages. 16 million! Can you imagine being one of them, starving and dying because of our empty promises?

"I don't want your hope. I don't want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic and act as if the house was on fire." This was sadly stated by the famous Greta Thunberg. In some places of the world, it is literally on fire! Like the fires on the Pennines or in the forests in California. But no one is panicking. It is of paramount importance that we realise the urgency of the climate crisis.

We must think about the 6 Rs: Reduce, reuse, rethink, repair, refuse, recycle. By taking these steps, one at a time, we can prevent events such as the fires on the Saddleworth Moors in 2018. The fires were the largest English wildfires in living memory. Think about all the schoolchildren who had to inhale that smoke, coughing and spluttering all day long which could have detrimental impact on their health in future. Imagine setting by your child's hospital bed filled with rage and guilt. Imagine looking these people, these children in the eyes knowing that you could have made a difference.

The top 50 wealthiest states are responsible for 86% of climate change, most of which affects lower income countries (who don't have the resources to help themselves). A whole new term has been created: 'climate refugee.' These are people who have to leave their home countries and seek refuge in ours' because of our appalling actions. Why don't we be the ones to help the 4/5 people who are women affected by the emergency, the children, the poor people?

But there is still time! Time to make a difference, time to help people, time to help the world. All it takes is unity and, with one step at a time, we can make a change. We must confront the governments and ensure they have the courage to change what was meant to be changed decades ago. We still have time, but it won't last forever.