

Speech Fridays For Future

It's unbelievable. We have been on strike for almost three years. Today again with hundreds of thousands worldwide. We shout again and again in the streets and stand on stages and tell again and again what politics is screwing up, how clearly the climate crisis is now endangering the lives of millions of people and that we must continue to be loud. And yes, it is tiring. Just because politicians are not doing the job they are paid for and above all elected for, we have to protest here over and over again.

Meanwhile, fires, droughts and floods are becoming commonplace. Millions of people are forced to flee or have perished because of the climate crisis.

Reasons why we also stand here and demonstrate. In the beginning, many protested for polar bears, more trees and the preservation of the oceans. But actually, it has always been about much more. It's not about individual consumption, less meat or a slightly greener world. We are calling for structural climate justice. And we can only achieve this if we tackle the exploitative system at its roots and fight injustice.

Now there's an election on Sunday and no party is going to introduce radical systemic change. We need climate-just measures now in order not to exceed the 1.5 degree limit, the last Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report has made this all the more clear. However, no party in the Bundestag has a plan that is sufficient for this. No party dares to acknowledge how much the structural injustices are interrelated and reinforced by the climate crisis.

But what do we actually mean by "the system"?

Can you be sure that the things you buy have all been produced with respect for human rights? No, you can't. Even if you buy FairTrade, the fault is in the system. Why are human rights not the basic requirement? In addition, these human rights violations usually do not happen in Germany or Europe, but in the Global South, in historically long exploited regions. We have to realize that the solution to these problems does not lie in changing our buying behaviour, but in changing the system. Questioning one's own consumption is important, but will not lead to action radical enough in the short term, and often even distract from it.

Who benefits from the status quo? The gap between rich and poor has widened in recent decades. So those who benefit most from the status quo and our system are those who are best off anyway. And the big corporations are now dumping the responsibility for continuing destruction on us in the supermarket?

Our democracy is supposed to make politics for all, but many people are hardly or not at all represented: young people, migrant people and many more are not allowed to vote, for example, the day after tomorrow. This is also part of the system we want to uproot. Far too often, the climate

crisis is presented as a crisis that we can already solve if we live climate-friendly alone. However, not all people have the same opportunities in this world.

The climate crisis is not an e-car issue, but a justice issue. And it starts where measures against the climate crisis are demanded and undertaken.

People suffering from social inequality are being sold the idea that we can't afford to take action on justice and climate policy. Who is supposed to finance such things?

Big companies often try to play climate protection off against fair working conditions. They want to tell us that climate protection measures cost jobs and come at the expense of employees. But they are lying. The CEOs of this world are still profiting from the exploitation of people and nature. But the employees, the workers stand just as for a safe future with us here!

There is constant talk about e-cars, vegan food, modern - supposedly climate-neutral - new buildings or cycling. But especially among people who work against the climate crisis, it is far too often forgotten that we will not achieve climate justice with unjust measures. Why do we never talk about the fact that the majority of people in Germany cannot afford an e-car, nor a modern oh-so-climate-neutral Bahnstadt-style house, nor vegan organic products?

As a movement, we are not the first to recognize the link between climate and environmental problems and injustices. On the contrary, ever since Europeans colonized the world, indigenous and black people have been fighting against the exploitation of people and nature that is causing the climate crisis. While we as students here in Germany might get some detention for demonstrating, activists in many countries are threatened when they fight for climate justice. Especially for MAPA, the most affected people and areas, it is much more difficult and dangerous to demonstrate than for us here in Germany due to repression and violence in their own country. MAPA are most affected by the impacts of the climate crisis and can do the least for it.

How can we finally live up to this responsibility? We say that we have to fight for a fairer system. In doing so, we must listen to those affected and unite our struggles. We cannot fight FOR MAPA, we must fight WITH them. We have to give up our privileges to give space in the public sphere to people who mostly don't get any. We must be in solidarity and be ready for new perspectives. We can only learn from this as a community fighting for climate justice.

Use your voice if you are eligible to vote and vote in solidarity with all those who are not allowed to vote. Children and youth, people without a German passport, and people suffering under German policies. After an election campaign that completely downplayed the climate crisis, structural racism and right-wing extremism in Germany, social inequality and the ongoing murderous EU external borders, let's show on Sunday that these human rights are non-negotiable. We need all for a climate against the right, against all the forces in right-wing parties that boycott any change towards more justice.

But a cross on Sunday is not enough. In recent years, we have clearly felt that politics only reacts when there is enough pressure from the street. We now have promises for 1.5 degrees from all parties in the election campaign, and we must demand them. We must continue to be loud. We need to show solidarity and join struggles. We must show in the coalition negotiations that we cannot accept lazy compromises between climate and social justice. The Greens must also abolish Hartz-IV and evacuate the camps at the external borders. Because measures must create social justice in order to also make climate justice possible in the long term.

Together, however, we must continue to fight for a climate-just world. Talk about these issues before and after the election. At the breakfast table and in the canteen. On the train and while hiking. Today we show: We all stand together for the climate, to get to the root of the crisis! We know what is needed and we know that it is possible - no matter the outcome of the election on Sunday.