

# Greta Thunberg: 'Leaders failed us on climate change'

3 hours ago



"You are failing us" - Greta tells world leaders

Full Un Coverage 3.05 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twampVKIHVo>

Swedish campaigner Greta Thunberg has made a passionate speech to world leaders at the UN, accusing them of failing to act on climate change.

"You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words," she told a UN climate summit in New York. About 60 world leaders are taking part in the one-day meeting organised by UN Secretary General António Guterres. He earlier said countries could only speak at the summit if they came with action plans to cut carbon emissions. US President Donald Trump, a climate change sceptic, had not been expected at the meeting - but he was briefly spotted in the audience.

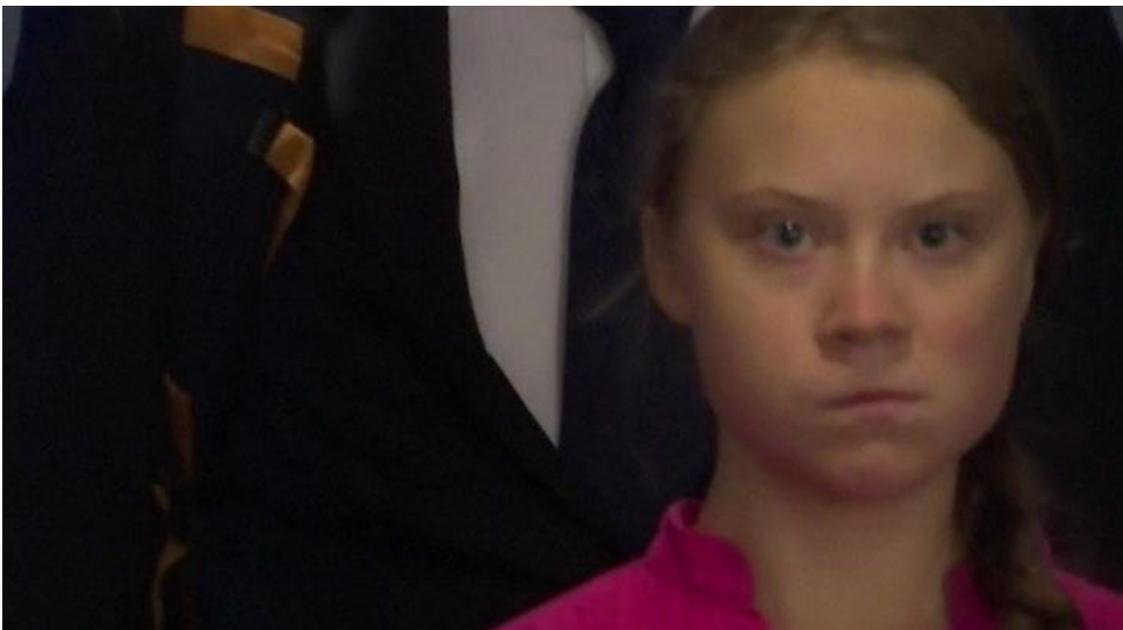
Brazil and Saudi Arabia are among the countries staying away.

## What did Greta Thunberg say?

In an emotional speech, she said: "This is all wrong. I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean, yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you?"

"You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words," the 16-year-old said.

And she urged world leaders to act urgently, saying: "We will be watching you."



The moment Greta Thunberg saw President Donald Trump

## What did world leaders say?

Mr Guterres, who organised the meeting, said the world was "in a deep climate hole" and that urgent action was needed.

"Time is running out, but it's not too late," he said.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said her country would double to €4bn (£3.5bn; \$4.4bn) its financial commitment to fight global warming.



BBC Weather examines what effects a warming world could have had on 2019's extreme weather

French President Emmanuel Macron said international organisations had pledged to release \$500m in additional aid to protect tropical forests.

New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said things "are starting to turn around" in the country.

"Our gross emissions peaked in 2006, over 80% of our electricity already comes from renewable hydro and wind, and we have begun an ambitious agenda.

"We have introduced in parliament the zero carbon bill, the purpose of which is to ensure New Zealand lives within the threshold of 1.5C of global warming necessary to avoid catastrophic weather events for our Pacific neighbours."

## Scientists' warning

The summit comes days after several million people took part in a global climate strike led by youth activists.

Ahead of the meeting, scientists warned the signs and impacts of global warming were speeding up.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said **the amount of carbon dioxide going into the atmosphere between 2015 and 2019 had grown by 20%** compared with the previous five years.

"We should listen to the loud cry coming from the schoolchildren," said Professor Brian Hoskins, chair of the Grantham Institute, Imperial College London, and professor of meteorology at the University of Reading.

"There is an emergency - one for action in both rapidly reducing our greenhouse gas emissions towards zero and adapting to the inevitable changes in climate," he said.

## Scientists plead with politicians

By Roger Harrabin, BBC environment analyst

As the dangers of climate heating become ever more apparent, so does the absence of collective will to tackle the issue.

In 2015 in Paris, all the world's leaders sounded their determination to curb the emissions that were heating the climate.

The summit will see a host of initiatives from businesses and small- and medium-sized nations.



Millions of people join the environmental strike led by schoolchildren across the world on Friday

But President Trump is encouraging fossil fuel use in every way he can. And China - in spite of its trend-setting commitment to solar and wind power - is still building new coal-fired power stations. Even the UK, a global leader in climate policy-making, is veering away from its own medium-term targets to cut emissions. The government is still aiming to expand Heathrow airport and increase the road network in a way that will increase emissions in those sectors. Politicians appear to believe climate change can be challenged with a version of economic business as usual. Their scientists are telling them with increasing desperation that we humans are facing an unprecedented threat in need of an unprecedented response.

Follow Roger on Twitter @rharrabin

## Greta Thunberg and 15 other children filed a complaint against five countries over the climate crisis

By [Drew Kann](#), CNN

Updated 1829 GMT (0229 HKT) September 23, 2019

**Greta Thunberg: You are failing us. How dare you** 01:33

**New York (CNN)** Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg and 15 other children filed a complaint with the United Nations Monday alleging that five of the world's major economies have violated their human rights by not taking adequate action to stop the unfolding [climate crisis](#).

The complaint was filed [a short time after Thunberg delivered an impassioned rebuke to world leaders at the UN Climate Action Summit](#).

"You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words — and yet, I'm one of the lucky ones," Thunberg said Monday. "People are suffering, people are dying."

The petition names five countries -- Germany, France, Brazil, Argentina and Turkey -- which they say have failed to uphold their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a 30-year-old human rights treaty which is the most widely ratified in history.



Greta Thunberg: The teenage old soul of the climate crisis  
<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/09/20/us/greta-thunberg-profile-weir/index.html>

The filing comes as the United Nations hosts a Climate Action Summit on the first day of its General Assembly, where dozens of world leaders are unveiling plans for reducing their countries' carbon footprints.

At a press conference across the street from the summit, Thunberg and the other children joining the petition expressed their blunt frustration with the lack of urgency that world leaders have shown in fighting climate change.

"The message that we want to send is that we've had enough," Thunberg said.

Carl Smith, a member of the indigenous Yupiaq tribe who lives in Akiak, Alaska, explained how warming has imperiled the subsistence hunting and fishing that his community depends on.

He blamed the inaction from leaders on greed.

"I think they're acting slowly because they don't want to lose money," Smith said. "And I think they should go see what [climate change] is doing to little villages and cities."



Youth climate activist Greta Thunberg and several other children announce the human rights complaint filed over five countries' handling of the climate crisis.

In their filing, the children -- who hail from 12 different nations -- detail how they say their human rights have been violated. They charge that the countries have not used their resources "to prevent the deadly and foreseeable consequences" of the current climate crisis, or cooperated effectively with other nations to address the problem.

They also call out each of the countries for their "inadequate" pledges to reduce greenhouse gases, saying that [the cuts they have agreed to will not keep global temperatures from rising less than 2 degrees Celsius](#), the goal that was set by the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. Scientists have warned that global warming of 2 degrees Celsius will result in [more frequent and dangerous heat waves, rising sea levels and declining crop yields around the world](#).

The children also say that their lives have already been impacted by the climate crisis, and that their future livelihoods will be endangered as the impacts worsen.

The children do not ask for any monetary compensation. Instead, they ask that the countries immediately adjust their climate goals and work with other nations to address the crisis.

The complaint singles out those countries because they are among the 44 that have accepted the convention's jurisdiction to hear complaints against them. They are also five of the world's biggest historical and current emitters of greenhouse gases, which are causing the planet to warm and triggering a host of other alarming impacts, from [raising sea levels](#) to [producing more intense storms](#).



Some of the world's other top greenhouse gas emitters are notably not named in the complaint.

The United States -- which has [contributed more global warming-inducing carbon dioxide to the atmosphere than any other country](#) -- cannot be held in violation because [it has not ratified the part of the treaty](#) that allows [children to seek justice for potential violations](#).

And China, which [currently emits more greenhouse gases than any other country](#), has also not signed onto that portion of the treaty.

## Greta Thunberg had one question at the U.N. climate summit: ‘How dare you?’

By  
[Kayla Epstein](#) and  
[Juliet Eilperin](#)

September 23, 2019 at 2:18 PM EDT

Teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg had one question for the global leaders assembled at the United Nations: “How dare you?”

Days after [telling U.S. lawmakers “listen to the scientists,”](#) she made the same demand on an international scale.

Thunberg chastised leaders for praising young activists like herself while failing to deliver on drastic actions needed to avert the worst effects of climate change, and she warned that if the world continued with business as usual, her generation would face an insurmountable catastrophe.

“This is all wrong,” said Thunberg, who was visibly emotional as she spoke on a panel at a U.N. climate summit Monday. With tears in her eyes and her face flushed, the 16-year-old activist — who began skipping school in her native Sweden a year ago to protest inaction on climate change — chastised the world leaders who had gathered in New York.

“I shouldn’t be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean,” said Thunberg, who traveled for two weeks on a solar-powered sailboat to reach the United States this month. “Yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you?”

Thunberg has quickly become the face of a global movement of young people demanding that their elders

safeguard their planet's future. On Friday, millions of young people all over the world joined Thunberg in a climate strike that she led from New York.

Thunberg continued her campaign Monday, as she and 15 other young people [filed a legal complaint](#) with the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child arguing that major countries — Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany and Turkey — have known about the risks of climate change for decades but have failed to take sufficient action to curb their emissions. The petitioners range in age from 8 to 17 and hail from Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany, India, the Marshall Islands, Nigeria, Palau, South Africa, Sweden, Tunisia and the United States.

"You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words," Thunberg said as she sat on the dais with panelists who included a young clean-energy entrepreneur from India and a Brazilian lawyer representing youth climate activists. "People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystem are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you?"

"For more than 30 years, the science has been crystal clear," Thunberg added. "How dare you continue to look away and come here and say you're doing enough when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight? You say you hear us and that you understand the urgency, but no matter how sad and angry I am, I do not want to believe that, because if you really understood the situation and still kept on failing to act, then you would be evil, and that I refuse to believe."

Her remarks ended with a warning: "You're failing us, but the young people are starting to understand your betrayal. The eyes of all future generations are upon you. And if you choose to fail us, I say, we will never forgive you."

French President Emmanuel Macron appeared to respond to Thunberg less than an hour later when he addressed the gathering in French and called on his fellow leaders to take more ambitious action given the urgency of the climate threat

"We've seen the emotion this morning," Macron said. "We cannot let our youth spend every Friday demonstrating for the climate and simply answer, 'Everything is fine, we are doing everything right.' We are still far from the account."

German chancellor Angela Merkel also met with Thunberg on Monday and posted a photo of her impromptu summit with the young activist.

But it was Thunberg's encounter with another world leader that garnered the most attention.

News cameras captured a video clip of Thunberg delivering an icy stare as President Trump walked by, her mouth set in a rigid frown as he approached the assembled media. The Trump administration is working to roll back several Obama-era climate rules, and last week revoked California's ability to set tighter limits on vehicles' carbon emissions, a leading driver of climate change. In 2017, Trump announced that the U.S. would leave the landmark Paris climate agreement, [though the terms of the agreement mean the U.S. cannot technically exit the deal until 2020](#).

If a picture is worth 1,000 words then this GIF is worth 100,000 [#ClimateWeek2019 pic.twitter.com/AqXdeUzgz3](#)  
— NowThis (@nowthisnews) September 23, 2019

Though [Thunberg met with former president Barack Obama](#) during her D.C. visit last week, she has brushed off suggestions that she speak with Trump.

"Why should I waste time talking to him when he, of course, is not going to listen to me?" Thunberg [told CBS](#)

[News](#) last month.

Her face on Monday, it appeared, said it all.

**Read more:**

[Teen climate activist Greta Thunberg demands that Congress 'listen to the scientists'](#)

0 Comments

# 16-YEAR-OLD GRETA THUNBERG STARING DOWN DONALD TRUMP AT UNGA IGNITES TWITTER: 'WE ARE ALL GRETA'

BY **JESSICA KWONG** ON 9/23/19 AT 2:52 PM EDT

A GIF of 16-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg staring at President Donald Trump with a sour look on her face her united many Twitter users on Monday, rallying people behind the message, "We are all Greta."

The GIF zoomed in on Thunberg's angry face and zoomed out as Trump walked past her in the lobby of the United Nations, where she had given a powerful speech calling on global leaders to step up their fight against climate change. The GIF was shared by Twitter users including Republican strategist and political commentator Ana Navarro-Cárdenas, who wrote, "We are all Greta."

**Ana Navarro-Cárdenas**



@ananavarro

We are all Greta.

Trump has been criticized for rolling back policies that were designed to protect the environment and combat greenhouse gas emissions. The look on Thunberg's face suggested she was not happy with the president.

Thunberg delivered a speech before the United Nations General Assembly at the Climate Action Summit on Monday, accusing global leaders of failing people of younger generations by not aggressively fighting climate change.

"This is all wrong," Thunberg, of Sweden, said. "I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to us young people for hope? How dare you!"

Thunberg said the United Nations' proposal to cut emissions in half over the next decade "only gives us a 50% chance of staying below 1.5C degrees, and the risk of setting off irreversible chain reactions beyond human control."

"You are failing us. But the young people are starting to understand your betrayal. The eyes of all

future generations are upon you," Thunberg concluded. "And if you choose to fail us I say we will never forgive you. We will not let you get away with this. Right here, right now is where we draw the line."

The United States was among countries not invited to the climate action summit organized by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres because the disapproves of their greenhouse gas emissions output.

But Trump, though he was not invited to the summit, crashed it for 10 to 15 minutes along with Vice President Mike Pence. Trump sat with pursed lips and listened to speeches by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to Business Insider.

When asked why he dropped into the summit, Trump said, "I'm a big believer in clean air and clean water, and all countries should get together and do that, and they should do it for themselves. Very, very important," according to CNN.

## 'She seems very happy': Trump appears to mock Greta Thunberg's emotional speech

Teenage climate activists told world leaders 'you are failing us' and accused them of 'betrayal'

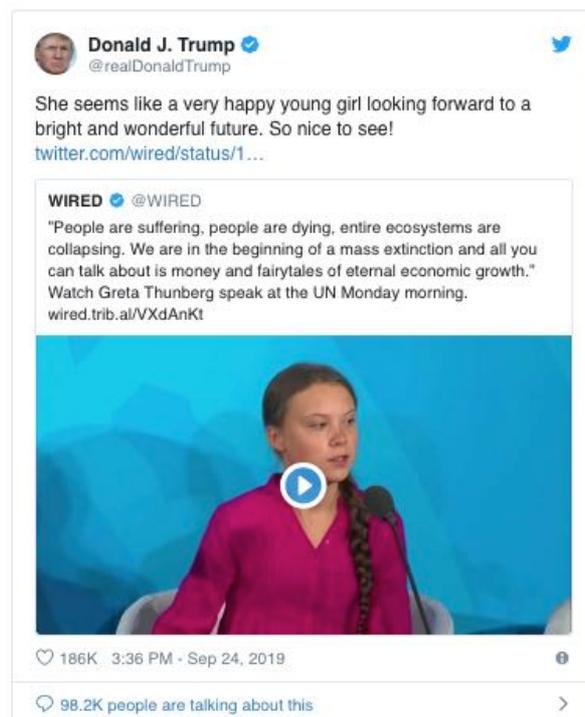
**Kate Lyons**

@MsKateLyons  
Tue 24 Sep 2019 05:35 BST

Donald Trump appears to have taken a swipe at teenage climate activist **Greta Thunberg**, tweeting a video of an emotional Thunberg with an apparently sarcastic comment that she seems to be "very happy" and looking forward to a bright future.

"She seems like a very happy young girl looking forward to a bright and wonderful future. So nice to see!" tweeted the US president late on Monday night.

The president tweeted out a video with the comment showing visibly upset Thunberg as she delivered a blistering speech to world leaders at a **United Nations** summit, saying they had betrayed young people through their inertia over the climate crisis.



In the stinging speech on Monday, the 16-year-old Swedish climate activist told governments: "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."

“You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words,” she said.

“The eyes of all future generations are upon you. And if you choose to fail us I say we will never forgive you. We will not let you get away with this. Right here, right now is where we draw the line.”

Thunberg, who kickstarted the global School Strike movement with her weekly Friday school strikes in Sweden, has been in New York for the climate summit. She briefly crossed paths with **Donald Trump** at the United Nations on Monday, as he arrived to attend a meeting on religious freedom. The US president decided to snub a major UN climate summit, held on the same day.

As Trump passed in front of Thunberg, she **fixed him with a steady stare**, video of which quickly went viral. Julián Castro, the Democratic presidential contender, **tweeted the video** with the words: “I think a lot of us can relate.”

When Thunberg arrived in New York late in August, she said she had little hope she would be able to convince the president to take action on the climate emergency: “I say ‘listen to the science’ and he obviously does not do that. If no-one has been able to convince him about the climate crisis and the urgency, why would I be able to?” she said.

## Greta Thunberg turns tables on Trump and quotes his mockery in new Twitter bio

**Thunberg seems to troll Trump with new bio that reads: ‘A very happy young girl looking forward to a bright and wonderful future’**

**Fox News apologises to Thunberg for ‘disgraceful’ remark**

**Joan E Greve**

@joanegreve

Tue 24 Sep 2019 18.35 BST

First published on Tue 24 Sep 2019 17.39 BST

Climate activist Greta Thunberg seemed to troll Donald Trump on Tuesday, changing her **Twitter bio** to reflect the US president’s mockery of her **emotional address** to the United Nations on Monday.

On Monday, Thunberg gave a **blistering speech** at the climate summit in New York, criticizing world leaders for their “betrayal” of young people through a lack of action on the climate crisis.

“You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words,” she **said**. “The eyes of all future generations are upon you. And if you choose to fail us I say we will never forgive you. We will not let you get away with this. Right here, right now is where we draw the line.”



**Greta Thunberg** ✓

@GretaThunberg

A very happy young girl looking forward to a bright and wonderful future.

📍 Sverige 📺 [youtu.be/H2QxFM9y0TY](https://youtu.be/H2QxFM9y0TY) 📅 Joined June 2018

1,748 Following 2M Followers

Greta Thunberg's new Twitter bio. Photograph: Twitter

One contributor to the president’s favourite TV network was roundly criticised – and caused Fox News **to issue an apology** – after he responded to Thunberg’s speech by calling her “a mentally ill Swedish child who is being exploited by her parents and by the international left”.

Trump was more subtle. In a **tweet**, he seemed to belittle the 16-year-old’s condemnation of world leaders for inaction on climate change.

“She seems like a very happy young girl looking forward to a bright and wonderful future,” the president wrote. “So nice to see!”

On Tuesday, Thunberg chose to respond indirectly, embracing the title by adding it to her **Twitter** profile.

It now reads: “A very happy young girl looking forward to a bright and wonderful future.”

Her profile had read: “16 year old climate activist with Asperger’s”.

**Thunberg** has previously **spoken out** about her Asperger’s syndrome diagnosis after she was criticized over the condition, saying it makes her “different”, but that she considers it a “superpower”.

