

CHAPTER 4

GLOBAL JUSTICE

INFO SHEET FOR 'POWER ROLE PLAY DRAMA - P. 21

INDIVIDUALS



Shailene Woodley, actress and environmental activist.

Shailene Woodley's passionate defence of environmental issues has gotten the young celebrity noticed for more than her acting roles.

She has argued that an energy transition involving the move away from fossil fuels is urgently needed. She has also criticized the abuse of our environment by corporations who prioritise profits over people. She has participated in numerous protests and climate change rallies, most notably the Dakota Access Pipeline protests. This 1,886 km underground oil pipeline threatens surrounding drinking water and violates land, which is sacred to Native Americans.

In September 2016, the Environmental Media Association honoured her for her activism on climate change and other environmental issues.

"We must stand in solidarity and acknowledge our responsibility for not only those alive now, but for all generations to come," said Woodley. "Protecting our Earth and it's creatures is protecting humanity and its children."

Reference:

ET Online: Shailene Woodley defends environmental issues following arrest:

<https://tinyurl.com/yavwrrs6>

Variety: Shailene Woodley environmental media awards honor:

<https://tinyurl.com/y3cdo7we>



Leonardo DiCaprio, actor and climate activist

Leonardo DiCaprio is arguably the most well-known celebrity climate activist, using his considerable star power to urge people everywhere to take action. In 1998 he set up the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation which seeks to halt the worst impacts of climate change and save the most endangered plants and animal on land and in sea.

In 2017 he joined the People's Climate March in Washington DC where thousands of people marched to show their concern regarding the impacts President Trump's policies would have on the environment. Leonardo DiCaprio has also spoken at the United Nations as a UN Messenger of Peace.

His documentary 'Before the flood' documented the devastating impacts of climate change and what measures can be taken to reverse it. "This needs to be a massive movement on a global scale. And it needs to happen now."

Reference:

Climate Reality Project- Nine celebrities changing conversations on climate action:

<https://tinyurl.com/y2qbrgv2>

Before the Flood:

<https://www.beforetheflood.com/>



Donald Trump, US President

US President Donald Trump has constantly denied the science of climate change. He has called it a “myth” and a “hoax”, claiming that it is based on faulty science and manipulated data.

His most detrimental decision has been to take the United States out of the Paris Climate Agreement, signed in 2015 by President Obama. He argues that climate change is not a significant threat and he doubts that humans contribute to it.

“I’m not a believer in man-made global warming. It could be warming, and it’s going to start to cool at some point. And you know, in the early, in the 1920s, people talked about global cooling...They thought the Earth was cooling. Now, it’s global warming... But the problem we have, and if you look at our energy costs, and all of the things that we’re doing to solve a problem that I don’t think in any major fashion exists.”

Reference:

Council on Foreign Relations – Trump on the issues: <https://tinyurl.com/ycpdrg33>

The Guardian – Donald Trump confirms US will quit Paris climate deal: <https://tinyurl.com/yd4zpdf7>



Mary Robinson, former Irish president

First woman president of Ireland, Mary Robinson is a passionate advocate for gender equality, human rights and climate justice.

She has held numerous positions within the United Nations, being the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997 to 2002, the UN Envoy on Climate Change during 2014-2015 and the 2016 UN Special Envoy on El Niño and Climate. In 2010, she set up the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, a centre for “leadership, education and advocacy on the struggle to secure global justice for those people most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change”.

“We have a responsibility to move in the direction that Paris has given us – well below 2C as far as possible to 1.5C – a world that leaves no one behind. A world that is fair and inclusive ... We can do it. And we will have a much better and more equal world if we do.”

Reference:

Mary Robinson Foundation Climate Justice: <https://www.mrfcj.org/>

Green News – Celebrate the environmental work of these Irish women for International Women’s Day: <https://tinyurl.com/y4qa3sld>

The Elders: <https://theelders.org/mary-robinson>

Trocaire- Five powerful quotes on climate change by Mary Robinson
<https://www.trocaire.org/news/five-powerful-quotes-climate-change-mary-robinson>



Vandana Shiva, Indian environmentalist and feminist

Vandana Shiva is an Indian environmentalist, feminist, food sovereignty, social activist, and critic of globalisation.

She is the founder of the Research Foundation for Science, Technology, and Natural Resource Policy, an organization devoted to developing sustainable methods of agriculture. Shiva has strongly criticised Asia's Green Revolution. This sought to increase food production in less-developed countries through higher-yielding seed stocks and the increased use of pesticides and fertilizers. Shiva argues that this has led to pollution, a loss of indigenous seed diversity and traditional knowledge, and the dependence of poor farmers on costly chemicals. Her organisation established seed banks throughout India to preserve the country's agricultural heritage while training farmers in sustainable agricultural practices.

Shiva has criticised the current approach to the food system, where food is seen as a product to gain economic benefit from rather than a source of nutrient which is essential for life.

Shiva advocates the use of traditional seeds as they are the most resilient due to their evolution over thousands of years.

Reference:

Vandana Shiva: <http://vandanashiva.com/>

National Council for Curriculum and Assessment - Vandana Shiva (downloadable pdf) <https://www.ncca.ie/media/2829/vandana-shiva.pdf>



Wangari Maathai, Founder of Green Belt Movement

Maathai was an internationally renowned Kenyan environmental political activist and Nobel laureate.

In 1971, she became the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctorate degree.

In 1977, Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement, an environmental non-governmental organization focused on the planting of trees, environmental conservation, and women's rights. In 2004, she became the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for "her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace."

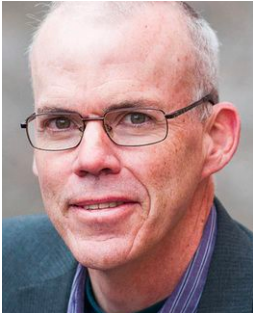
In her later years, her activism focused on combatting climate change and how it will negatively impact Africa greater than any other part of the world. She urged the developed world to take action and help Africa adapt to climate change, as well as preserving its forests.

"I always felt that our work was not simply about planting trees. It was about inspiring people to take charge of their environment, the system that governed them, their lives, and their future."

Reference:

The Guardian - 'We know what to do, why don't we do it?' <https://tinyurl.com/y6nlcush>

The Green Belt Movement: <http://www.greenbeltmovement.org/wangari-maathai>



Bill McKibben, American environmentalist and author

Bill McKibben is an American environmentalist, author, and activist who has written extensively on the impact of global warming.

In 1988 he wrote *The End of Nature*, the first book for a general audience about climate change. He is a co-founder at 350.org, the first planet-wide, grassroots climate change movement, which has organized twenty thousand rallies around the world, standing up to the fossil fuel industry and arguing in favour of building a clean energy system for all.

McKibben argues that while climate change is a global issue it is important to take an approach where people take action in their local area.

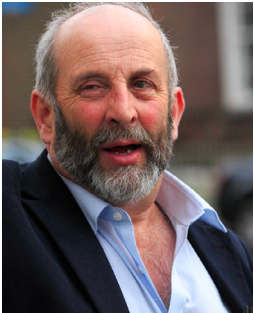
McKibben has been called 'the world's best green journalist'. In 2013 McKibben was awarded the Gandhi Peace Award and the Thomas Merton Prize for social justice.

'Climate change is the single biggest thing that humans have ever done on this planet. The one thing that needs to be bigger is our movement to stop it'.

Reference:

350: <https://350.org/bill/>

Bill McKibben: <http://www.billmckibben.com/>



Danny Healy Rae (Dail Eireann 2016), Independent TD for Kerry

Independent TD for Kerry, Danny Healy-Rae, is one of the most controversial climate deniers in Ireland, claiming that God alone is in charge of the weather and mankind doesn't have any hand, act or part in it.

In a Dáil discussion on the topic, he said that he "doesn't agree with all this story about climate change at all".

He said there have been patterns of climate change for years - "before indeed there was ever a combustible engine working in this country or in any other country". He also stated that "if we go back to the 11th and the 12th centuries, this country was roasted out of it and in the 15th and 16th centuries we were drowned out of it. In the 1740s, we'd a famine that we lost over three million people because of two years of bad weather."

Reference:

The Independent - It rained for two years in the 1740s

<https://tinyurl.com/yxosc6gj>



Pharrell Williams, singer and songwriter

Pharrell Williams is an American singer and songwriter who alongside encouraging political engagement, promoting educational empowerment, and championing women's rights has promoted climate action in a number of ways. In 2015 he partnered with the United Nations Foundation on the International Day of Happiness to raise awareness and call for more action on climate change.

An avid fan of fashion, he was named 'Head of imagination' at G-Star having worked with the brand in 2014 to turn recycled ocean plastic into denim.

An area Pharrell is passionate about is the need for a green economy. "Right now, we have a unique opportunity to tackle climate change and to make sure that young people and our planet have a future that is sustainable for many generations to come. Making economies green could create millions of good, decent jobs all around the world."

Reference:

Rueters- We only have one home: <https://tinyurl.com/y537ddxx>

The Guardian - Pharrell Williams calls on world leaders to deliver green jobs at UN climate summit:

<https://tinyurl.com/y2wdsvla>

INSTITUTIONS

GREENPEACE

Greenpeace

Greenpeace is an environmental NGO founded in 1971 whose goal is to ensure a greener, healthier world for our oceans, forests, food, climate and democracy.

It campaigns worldwide on issues such as stopping climate change, defending oceans, protecting forests, eliminating toxic chemicals from industry and eliminating nuclear weapons.

Greenpeace has been often described as the most visible environmental organization in the world, having raised environmental issues to public knowledge, and influenced both the private and the public sector. It does this by investigating, documenting and exposing the causes of environmental destruction. Greenpeace works to bring about change through political lobbying, citizen action and consumer pressure.

“We believe optimism is a form of courage. We believe that a billion acts of courage can spark a brighter tomorrow. A green and peaceful future is our quest. The heroes of our story are all of us who believe that better world is not only within reach, but being built today.”

Reference:

Greenpeace: <https://www.greenpeace.org/international/>



United Nations

Since its foundation the United Nations has sought to achieve international co-operation in solving problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all.

The global understanding of development has changed over the years. Countries now agree that sustainable development – development that promotes economic prosperity, societal well-being, and protection of the environment – offers the best path forward for improving the conditions of all people and the planet.

In September 2015, world leaders at an historic UN Summit adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda.

Goal 13 “climate action” recognises that climate change is disrupting national economies and affecting lives. The implementation of the Paris Agreement is seen as being essential for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and provides a roadmap for actions, which will reduce emission creation and enhance resilience

Reference:

United Nations – Sustainable Development Goals
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>



Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is an international body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change.

The IPCC was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation. These assessments provide a scientific basis for governments to develop climate related policies. They also underlie negotiations at the UN Climate Conference. This is yearly conference where the Conference of the Parties (or countries) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) discuss climate action.

In 2007 the IPCC alongside former U.S Vice-President Al Gore were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize ‘for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and lays the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change’.

Reference:

IPCC: http://www.ipcc.ch/news_and_events/docs/factsheets/FS_what_ipcc.pdf



Environmental Protection Agency of Ireland

The Environmental Protection Agency is at the forefront of environmental protection and policing. It ensures that Ireland's environment is protected using numerous indicators such as biodiversity, waste and soil quality and monitors changes in environmental trends to detect early warning signs of neglect or deterioration.

Central to the EPA is environmental research, which seeks to identify pressures, inform government policy and provide solutions in the areas of climate, water and sustainability.

The EPA provide a number of services including regulating Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions as well as raise awareness and promote behavioural change among Irish citizens. Other activities carried out by the EPA in Ireland include:

- Implementing the strategy Towards a Resource Efficient Ireland, which incorporates the National Waste Prevention Programme.
- Enhancing positive behavioural change by supporting businesses, communities and householders to become more resource efficient.
- Promoting radon testing in homes and workplaces and encouraging remediation where necessary.

Reference:

EPA: <http://www.epa.ie/about/roles/>

<https://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/waste/prevention/TowardsAResourceEfficientIreland.pdf>



Global Action Plan Ireland

Global Action Plan Ireland supports schools, communities and businesses to take practical action to live as sustainably as possible. GAP is part of GAP International - a global network of organisations in over 27 countries that facilitate behaviour change to promote environmental sustainability.

Their mission is to assist people in living more sustainable lifestyles by offering practical yet creative solutions that inspire people to act. GAP's education programmes place a particular emphasis on energy conservation, water saving and waste prevention. GAP seek educate individuals on improving their behaviour with energy, food, water, and waste, engage participants in programmes that emphasize measuring resource savings and behaviour change and inspire people to live sustainable lifestyles through positive behavior.

GAP programmes empower individuals to take action on climate change, doing small gestures and changes in their everyday lives to tackle global warming.

Additionally, GAP Ireland host climate change specific workshops for primary and post-primary workshops to inspire individual action against climate change.

Reference:

Website: <http://globalactionplan.ie/>



Shell

Shell is an international energy company with expertise in the exploration, production, refining and marketing of oil and natural gas, and the manufacturing and marketing of chemicals.

In their 1988 internal report titled “The Greenhouse Effect”, Shell recognized that the company played a role in global warming and that the threat from rising temperatures was growing. The research determined that the company generated 4% of the world’s carbon emissions in 1984, from its production of oil, gas and coal. Shell have committed to respecting the environment by taking measures such as using less energy more efficiently, using less fresh water and conserving biodiversity wherever we operate.

While the company doesn’t deny that climate change is happening, they do plan to continue exploiting oil and gas for years to come. This is despite the known human health impacts fossil fuels use can create.

On a positive note however the movement to divest from fossil fuels is gaining momentum.

Reference:

Website: <https://www.shell.com/>

The Washington Post - Shell foresaw climate change dangers in 1988 and understood bio oil’s big role: <https://tinyurl.com/y2dcybif>



Patagonia

Patagonia is a designer of outdoors clothing and gear for the silent sports: climbing, surfing, skiing and snowboarding, fly fishing, and trail running. In each sport, reward comes in the form of hard-won grace and moments of connection between us and nature.

Having grown out of a small company that made tools for climbers, Patagonia has maintained its initial commitment to the environment for more than 30 years. Their mission statement reads: “Build the best product, cause no unnecessary harm, use business to inspire and implement solutions to the environmental crisis”.

Patagonia’s specific actions in tackling climate change includes:

- Reducing the environmental impact of their company and supply chain
- Supporting grassroots activists by paying an Earth Tax
- Using their company voice to advocate for systemic change
- Empowering their costumers by making quality products that can be repaired
- Supporting regenerative practices in ranching and agriculture

Reference:

Website: <http://www.patagonia.com/company-info.html>



World Bank

The World Bank provides low-interest loans and grants to developing countries. It has set itself the goals of ending extreme poverty in the world and promoting shared prosperity by fostering the income growth of the bottom 40% for every country by 2030.

In the area of sustainability and climate action the World Bank provides expertise, technical assistance and financing to help low- and middle-income countries manage land, sea and freshwater natural resources in a sustainable way. This helps to create jobs, improve livelihoods, decrease pollution and increase resilience to climate change.

Whilst these measures are enhancing the conditions of the environment in some of the poorest parts of the world, it has been reported that the World Bank has continued to finance the building of coal, oil and gas projects. A sustainable future cannot be achieved if support is provided to those who do not promote low-carbon and pro-climate practices.

Reference:

Website: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/about/what-we-do>

DW – World Bank accused of financing fossil fuel development

<https://www.dw.com/en/world-bank-accused-of-financing-fossil-fuel-development/a-37331666>



European Union

The European Union has long been committed to international efforts to tackle climate change and has taken a robust approach to policy-making at home. Under the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP) a comprehensive package of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions have been initiated.

The European Commission has taken many climate-related initiatives since 1991, such as a directive to promote electricity from renewable energy, voluntary commitments by carmakers to reduce CO2 emissions by 25% and proposals on the taxation of energy products.

The EU has set itself targets for reducing its greenhouse gas emissions progressively up to 2050. It hopes to this through a number of means including:

- Formulate and implement climate policies and strategies
- Take a leading role in international negotiations on climate
- Implement the EU's Emissions Trading System (EU ETS)
- Monitor national emissions by EU member countries
- Promote low-carbon technologies & adaptation measures

Reference:

European Climate Change Programme: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/eccp_en





IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE...

Individuals

Naomi Klein,
Jeffrey Sachs,
Sylvia Earle,
Al Gore,
Russell Simons,
Emma Thompson
Girl Gone Green (Youtube)

Institutions

WWF
350.org
Friends of the Earth
Earth Justice
The Environmental Defence Fund
Fairtrade International

<https://gardencollage.com/change/climate-change/celebrities-care-environment-want-know/>

