

Lena Lin

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Day 24 Greenest

Speech

Hello everyone,

My name is Lena Lin. I am a junior from Bloomington High School South in Indiana. I would like to thank everyone for being here today. I'm going to start off by saying that I know that everyone here understands climate change to some extent, so I won't repeat facts and statistics that we've all heard, but the truth is that you don't need to know a whole lot about climate change to understand that it is the most drastic crisis that humanity has ever faced. Because of that, we will need the mass cooperation of people all across the globe to create and implement solutions at an unprecedented magnitude. Note that I did not say "humanity must band together to create a solution that can stop the crisis." That's because it's not possible. We do not have the time nor the resources to invent one ultimate solution that can solve our problem just like that, but we also do not need to. We already have solutions, in fact, we have hundreds of them, and all we need to do is implement them. What I am about to discuss are major solutions that are not addressed as well as other, more publicized ones.

Firstly, one of the most essential steps in reducing climate change is reducing the rate at which the human population grows. After all, overpopulation is at the very core of why climate change is occurring at such a drastic rate. Behind this issue is the lack of female education in

developing countries because it widens the gap between men and women and contributes to a sexist community. In such a community, women are thought of as having the sole purpose of birthing children, and many of them, considering the death rate in such countries is also tremendously high. Female education can change this dramatically by allowing women to become more independent. As a result, they will have fewer children and have them at an older age. This will slow down the rate of population growth dramatically, which is why it is so important to advocate for and offer women everywhere opportunities for higher education.

Secondly, excessive and unnecessary waste must end. This pertains particularly to everyday items and food. Again, education about the topic is crucial here, especially in first world countries that produce the most waste. People have adopted an “out of sight, out of mind” mentality in which they don’t realize the consequences of throwing away items or food unnecessarily. The impact that creating everyday products and food has environmentally is immense. The fact that they are also being discarded at unfathomable rates worsens the issue exponentially. It is up to our leaders to educate about consumerism, and it is up to our people to halt our participation in it.

Lastly, we must incorporate justice and equity into our campaign if we want to save the world. All of the issues I just discussed are intimately tied with social justice—think of the women in developing countries that still don’t have rights. Think of the workers who have no other choice than to risk their lives to make a low quality pair of shoes. Think of the local farmers who have been consumed by larger corporations and have had to give up their ideals so that they can continue ensuring the safety of their families. Beyond these issues, think of the indigeneous people who have watched as their lands have been taken away from them and promptly

obliterated. Think of all of those who have been disproportionately affected by climate change because the rich want to get richer. We must prioritize people over profits, because ultimately, we cannot profit without people. And that's all I have to say.

Thank you for your time.

Link to Video: <https://www.instagram.com/p/B4Boc6NJoX2/?igshid=of2ompn9zr69>