

The "hunger strike of the last generation" becomes the "uprising of the many" - carried by the part of the hunger strikers who ended their strike after about three weeks to start #takethechair.

Press release 02 - for the press conference on 23.9 / Spreebogenpark

"We have to save ourselves." Launch of the #takethechair campaign

Great determination, clear conclusion after three weeks in the climate hunger strike: "Politics is not acting in responsibility for future generations and not in accordance with what is scientific consensus. A broad base of people must know this and must fight to change it. We are starting."

Berlin, 23 September 2021, Spreebogenpark. In an emotional, powerful conclusion, the public press conference in the park clearly shows what this hunger strike has been about: life and death, responsibility, the failure of politics, and a great new beginning in which young people join with a broad base of people of all ages and stand up to preserve livelihoods that will otherwise be irretrievably destroyed.

In the final image, people take their seats on the chairs that the invited candidates for chancellor did not want to occupy. These - mainly young - people are taking responsibility. The hunger strike is over, now everyone is called upon: #takethechair

Earlier, Lina Eichler, Mephisto, Rumen Grabow, Jacob Heinze and Simon Helmstedt, 18 to 27 years old, spoke. They had spoken at three press conferences in the weeks before as hunger strikers, now for the first time after the end of the starvation a few days ago, no longer weakened, but upright. In front of them, the three empty chairs that had been kept free for the candidates for chancellor, taking stock. They talk about hunger and suffering. About the climate catastrophe and the politicians' inaction. And about what follows from it.

Starvation and suffering - and the climate catastrophe

Lina talks about her starvation. "I went hungry knowing that I could eat again at any time. And yet it was bad. You feel in your own body how the control over your own strength is fading, I wondered with every day what it must be like to really starve because there is no more food, to be hungry because droughts cause crops to dry up."

It's also a matter of life and death for Jacob, who speaks of the fight for climate justice: "Either we turn the corner and live, or we allow the destruction of this planet and will perish in hells on earth." He asks that people extend their great sympathy and solidarity beyond the hunger strikers, "to the people in forest occupations and in actions against the IAA car show, in coal mine occupations or road blockades where they feel the violence of the state. They are traumatised by pepper spray, batons, abuse in prison, they are criminalised and locked away because they want to protect our basic right to life, because politics does not. These people need sympathy and solidarity." This is especially true in parts of the

world "where people are murdered for protesting for a fundamental right to life, for example in Kenya, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Argentina or Brazil.

Climate catastrophe and the failure of politics

Rumen talks about the reality of the climate catastrophe - and how politicians are ignoring it. About the 2015 Paris climate agreement and how this treaty is being broken. About climate tipping points that are activated, about the sixth great species extinction. About the alarming IPCC report that came to light in advance, which was not even noticed by the public. "This is a scandal. We will have wars, mass starvation, we are destroying our livelihoods, and it is not noticed:" He asked for a minute's silence for all those who are already enduring the suffering of climate catastrophe. ,

One solution to bring inactive politics into action with a profoundly democratic instrument is a citizens' assembly, as called for in the hunger strike. Simon describes how representative councils in other countries and also in Germany, for example with the Citizens' Climate Assembly, decide on far-reaching measures for climate protection, which, however, are often not taken seriously by governments if they are not involved in a binding way.

Conclusion: Politics will not save us, we must fight

Mephisto comes to a conclusion: politics will not save us. "This realisation is not new, the Fridays experience that they are ignored in the end, the climate justice movement knows it, on the contrary, they know that climate protests are increasingly criminalised and made more difficult. But it has to become more people who know this, who really understand that politics is not acting in responsibility for future generations and not in accordance with what scientific consensus is." She appeals to a broad base of people who need to know this, who need to stand up and fight for this to change. That "preserving and protecting livelihoods" becomes the top priority, in all political action.

#takethechair: We start, here and now

She, as the first of the hungry, takes one of the three chairs that have remained free, and more chairs are added. They all speak, on these chairs, with which they take themselves into the responsibility to act. They talk about the abysses into which they have looked, the pain of going on like this, the despair and the strength they have drawn from it. About the hope and the touch that the departure and the sympathy gave them, also in their home towns.

Hannah Lübbert, 20, the group's spokesperson, joins in and takes a chair. "Three chairs that politics leaves empty, that we have to take now. We have to take the responsibility that the politicians are not taking," she sums up, and warns that false hope in politics creates situations of destructive despair like the dry hunger strike..

It is not enough for five young activists to bear this responsibility.

She recalls the three weeks in the camp: "We saw that many visitors in the camp burst into tears because they couldn't stand it. Because they allowed themselves to look into the abyss for the first time. And we have to learn the lesson: It is not enough for five young activists to bear this responsibility. Pull up a chair." She explicitly includes journalists: "I have seen that you came here as neutral media representatives and that you left the camp as deeply touched people. We all have to act as human beings here."

The #takethechair action starts today as an interactive call to stay in touch via this hashtag, to use it as an opportunity to get out of your comfort zone and to look "into the abyss" of the climate catastrophe yourself. With their own videos, people can make this action big - and set themselves a sign for departure.

More details are attached.

More information will be available soon.

#takethechair - We are the departure of the many

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