



Schoolgirl Climate Change Warrior

Greta Ernman Thunberg (born 3 January 2003) is a Swedish climate activist who has been described as a role model for worldwide student activism. She is known for having initiated the School Strike for Climate movement that formed in November 2018 and surged globally after the COP24 Conference in December the same year.

Her personal activism began in August 2018, when her recurring and solitary '*Skolstrejk för klimatet*' (School strike for the climate) protesting outside the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm began attracting media coverage. On 15 March 2019, an estimated number of 1.4 million students in 112 countries around the world joined her call in the striking and protesting. The next major climate strike to take place globally is scheduled on 24 May 2019.

On 13 March 2019, three members of the Norwegian Parliament nominated Greta Thunberg as a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize later this year. Greta responded that she was 'honoured and very grateful' for the nomination. The young student has already received various prizes and awards for her activism.

Following Greta Thunberg's 'Rise for Climate' demonstration in Brussels, she drove with her family to London in an electric car where she addressed the 'Declaration of Rebellion' organized by Extinction Rebellion opposite the Houses of Parliament. She said: 'We're facing an immediate unprecedented crisis that has never been treated as a crisis and our leaders are all acting like children. We need to wake up and change everything'.

On 24 November 2018, she spoke at TEDxStockholm about realising, when she was eight years old, that climate change existed and wondering why it was not headline news on every channel, as if there was a world war going on.

Thunberg addressed the COP24 United Nations climate change summit on 4 December 2018 and also spoke before the plenary assembly on 12 December 2018. During the summit, she also participated in a panel talk together with representatives of the We Don't Have Time Foundation, in which she talked about how the school strike began.

Greta has warned the global leaders that 'Our house is on fire', adding 'I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. We owe it to the young people, to give them hope.'

She wrote in an article for *The Guardian* in January 2019: According to the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), we are less than 12 years away from not being

able to undo our mistakes. In that time, unprecedented changes in all aspects of society need to have taken place, including a reduction of our CO2 emissions by at least 50%.

On 21 February 2019, she spoke at a conference of the European Economic and Social Committee and to the European Commission Chief Jean-Claude Juncker, where she demanded that to still meet the climate goals the EU must reduce their carbon dioxide emissions by at least 80% until 2030.

At an April 2019 meeting at the European Parliament in Strasbourg with MEP's and EU officials, she chided those present 'for three emergency Brexit summits and no emergency summit regarding the breakdown of the climate and the environment'. Climate change discussions have not been dominant at EU summits because other issues have taken precedence. She continued: 'The extinction rate is up to 10,000 times faster than what is considered normal, with up to 200 species becoming extinct every single day'. Greta Thunberg was given a 30 second standing ovation at the end of her speech.

HUGE achievements for a young autistic student who began her campaign alone on the steps of the Houses of Parliament with a painted sign as her protest.



Greta's protest outside Parliament.



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**Greta's blessing from Pope Francis:
'God bless you, continue to work, continue. Go along, go ahead.'**