

Severn Suzuki's Speech at the U.N. Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 より

Hello, I'm Severn Suzuki speaking for E.C.O. — The Environmental Children's Organization.

We are a group of twelve and thirteen-year-olds from Canada trying to make a difference.

I'm here to speak on behalf of the starving children around the world whose cries go unheard. I'm here to speak for the countless animals dying across this planet because they have nowhere left to go.

At school, even in kindergarten, you teach us to behave in the world. You teach us:

not to fight with others,  
to work things out,  
to respect others,  
to clean up our mess,  
not to hurt other creatures  
to share - not be greedy

Then why do you go out and do the things you tell us not to do?

Do not forget why you're attending these conferences, who you're doing this for - we are your own children. You are deciding what kind of world we will grow up in. Parents should be able to comfort their children by saying "everything's going to be alright," "we're doing the best we can" and "it's not the end of the world."

But I don't think you can say that to us anymore. Are we even on your list of priorities? My father always says "You are what you do, not what you say."

Well, what you do makes me cry at night. You grown-ups say you love us. I challenge you, please make your actions reflect your words. Thank you for listening.

(244 words)