

# Generation Change: Young People's Participation in Protest

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## Protest poetry



# Young people's protest poetry



## Protest Lab

Young people working with Toonspeak submitted a series of six poems, films and spoken word pieces to the *Generation Change: Young People's Participation in Protest* exhibition. This document shares the work submitted and shared in the exhibition.



**Toonspeak Protest Lab**  
Mugdock Country Park  
Summer 2021

## Protest Lab 1

When I was young, I couldn't understand why nothing was being done about climate change. At 11 I stopped eating and talking, and even now I only speak when it's necessary. And it's necessary now. Every Friday instead of going to school I sat outside of parliament as part of a climate strike. I am only 18 and I have led the largest climate change strike in history. I am times magazines youngest ever "person of the year". No, that's not me. That's Greta Thunberg. I've never protested in my life – too scary. Well, except once. When I was 8, I said something in class. The teacher said I was very rude and after school, she marched me up to my mum and made me repeat it. And I said "I am a strong independent person and I am a human being with my own thoughts and opinions". My mum looked at me, and then looked at the teacher and said "He is allowed his own opinions because he is a strong independent person." Well, that was 10 years ago. I still have my own opinions, but when am I ever going to do anything about it?

**Liam Campbell**

## Protest Lab 2

Society

they see me as a enemy  
conspiring against me so heavenly  
it become their specialty  
tryna give me deadly remedies  
laughed it off like It was a comedy  
turning my pain into a odyssey  
live in the minority of this democracy  
but I stand in the majority of this racial hypocrisy  
that's why I can't accept this disturbed authority  
society forcing us to commit atrocities  
they focus on the stereotype of our possibilities  
they don't know the pain/ we bring from our countries  
they shout dirty monkeys and dumb dummies  
twisting our minds with their medias power  
we persuaded to commit dangerous felonies  
we kill our people as well our enemies  
and it becomes a deadly specialty  
and now it becomes our legacy  
jealous of our great destiny  
jealous of our chemistry  
that we turn into unrivalled weaponry  
angered by our rhythm and melody  
they become lifetime enemies  
and the cycle continues  
we need to remember our values  
and to value each other not the issues  
our virtues must continue  
and rescue the ill-minded and become united

*Lloyd Darko (El Darko)*

## Protest Lab 3

What do you mean? There's plenty of time,  
I don't care about this 'climate change' because the planet is fine.  
I don't need to hear about pollution or deforestation  
it's not my responsibility out of the whole human creation,  
I just want to be left in peace  
so please stop with this stupid climate change speech.  
But the planet must thrive and be healthy for future generations  
just please listen, open your mind and have some consideration.  
The future generation won't matter to me,  
I won't be here to see them, as I will be  
dead and you'll be the same,  
That's how life goes, we shouldn't feel shame.  
Every generation struggles, mine has had it's fair share,  
but we had to just bear  
it and get on with life, and you should too,  
instead of hassling me, I've got better things to do  
You speak of time yet you're wasting your own  
as the future you speak of is rather unknown.  
This climate change nonsense has got yous all stuck.  
You need to snap out of it and I wish you luck.  
This future generation I do wish them luck,  
even if this climate change makes them feel stuck,  
I need to do something to prevent all this damage.  
I promise to use my voice to all our advantage.

**Luke Dobbie**



## Protest Lab 4

Humanitarian issues. Racism. Sexism. Homophobia. Transphobia. Representation. Ableism. Lateral ableism, accommodations, benefits, misinformation, inspiration porn, autism speaks, the Judge Rotenberg Centre, Applied Behavioural Analysis.

Global warming. Pollution. Capitalism. Large corporations cause most global warming. BP (British Petroleum) coined the term 'carbon footprint' while being one of the largest participants in global warming. Renewable energy. Thorium! Uranium! Nuclear weapons and nuclear waste!

I still use plastic water bottles despite knowing the effect on the planet just because I can't handle the taste of metal.

**Emma Gibson**

## Film

The video is a short clip from *Toonspeak Protest Lab*, which was a performance-based film project that took place in 2021. The film echoes topics such as climate change, racism and humanitarianism and is a piece devised with young people which features original writing, poetry and music composition.



[Click here](#) to watch the film.

## Protest Lab 5

### *I've Lost My Faith in Humanity*

I've lost my faith in  
humanity  
You're destroying our  
home  
A capitalist  
government  
Ruling on their iron  
thrones  
Playing dangerous  
games in this  
glasshouse  
And you're still  
chucking stones  
This land of green  
slowly turning brown  
Our whole world  
turning upside down  
The cool oceans,  
rivers and lakes,  
beginning to bubble  
As the environment is  
cooking itself  
In the pot that used  
to be the Earth  
And it's boiling to  
burst, boiling to  
combust  
This world is crying,  
this world is dying  
Yet you act like you're  
flying  
Look at me!

I am Mother Nature  
I am the oceans, I am  
the trees, I am the  
mountains, the birds  
and bees.  
The ground you walk,  
the ice you melt.  
I am the sky, the  
clouds, and the air  
that is dirty, shrouded  
and corrupt.  
This is the world you  
want to leave for your  
wains  
For as long as your  
capitalist society  
reigns  
Your greed for wealth  
is affecting my health.  
There is little left, you  
mine and mine and  
take and take yet  
never give.  
How do you expect  
this world to live?  
When you've stripped  
me to my core  
I've lost my faith in  
humanity  
No more

***Michael-Jay***

# Find out more

[Click here](#) to find out more about the Living Museums project.

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[Click here](#) to find out more about Toonspeak.

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## Cover photo

Toonspeak Protest Lab, Roystonhill Community Hub, Glasgow

