**Unit 16 Listening Transcript**

**The youth movement grows up. Climate Fight podcast part four transcript**

<https://theconversation.com/where-does-the-youth-climate-movement-go-next-climate-fight-podcast-part-4-170475>

In this episode we talk to experts about how countries make sure not to leave people behind, and widen inequalities as they shift away from fossil fuels.

**Greta Thunberg:** There is no planet B. There is no planet blah. Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. This is not about some expensive, politically correct green act of bunny-hugging, or blah blah blah. Net zero by 2050 – blah, blah blah. Net zero – blah, blah, blah. Climate neutral – blah, blah, blah. This is all we hear from our so-called leaders. Words. Words that sound great but so far has led to no action.

**Jack Marley:** Over the last few years, young people around the world have voiced their outrage over the climate crisis.

**Chanting:** What do we want? Climate justice. When do we want it? Now.

**Jack:** Young people have a unique stake in climate breakdown, they face a future world that looks nothing like the one their parents had.

**Chanting:** And we demand change. We want change, we want change, we want change.

**Jack:** I’m Jack Marley. And this is Climate Fight episode 4: The Youth Movement Grows Up.

Ahead of COP26, in an effort to find out how decisions are made, I want to explore the role of young people. For instance, is the youth climate movement as strong as it once was?

**Harriet Thew:** So, I think we have to go back to 2018 at least. So, Greta Thunberg started striking outside the Swedish parliament. Youth climate marches started happening in the US at the zero-hour protests. And particularly importantly, that year in October, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC report came out on what 1.5 degrees of warming would mean for the world and what we’d need to do to achieve it.

I’m Dr. Harriet Thew. I’m from the Sustainability Research Institute at the University of Leeds and my research focuses on youth participation in climate governance and climate change education.

**Harriet:** So that really catalysed action from young people and from older people through Extinction Rebellion as well in 2019. I saw Greta Thunberg at the UN climate negotiations in Katowice at the end of 2018 and she did not make anywhere near as big of a stir as she did the following year. So she was kind of starting to get well-known, but it was really in 2019, the Fridays for Future, or School Strikes for Climate as it’s called in the UK, that the movement really took off.

**Newsclip:** Today’s lesson: civil disobedience. Here in Manchester and up and down the country, thousands of students from reception to year 13 skipped school to call for action on climate change.

**Jack:** I’m kind of quite interested in the idea of age and how that was really significant in the 2019 youth strikes. And I was just wondering, what do you think the influence of young people is on climate politics more broadly?

**Harriet:** Yeah, I think young people are particularly good at raising the profile of upcoming events and policy areas, capturing the public interest and emphasising urgency, the need to act now. Because young people have symbolic power. They’re representative of a huge proportion of the global population and they have moral power, so they’re seen as having greater moral integrity because they’re not being paid to take a particular stance. So, they’re sort of seen as representing the moral voice and moral interest and going a bit further than some organisations go in demanding change and saying what needs to be done.

**Jack:** Right, and so how does that moral voice of young people, what kind of influence does that have on decisions at the UN climate negotiations, the COP?

**Harriet:** For example, the youth constituency in the UN climate negotiations, [Youngo](http://www.youngo.uno/), has had quite a lot of influence on the policy that is about climate change education, because they’re seen as recognised experts in that area. So, going and being able to share their lived experiences and say, this is what happens in my school or university, or this is the education that I had, and this is why it works or doesn’t work, leads to very tangible changes in UN policy that you can see, you can document over time. Whereas the kind of bigger protests, moral voice, general messages of ‘we need change and we need it now’, it’s much more difficult to measure the kind of tangible impact of that.