

Vice President, Deans and Faculty Members of the College of Mount Saint Vincent
Sisters of Charity Federation
Father Ron and Campus Ministry
President of the Student Government Association College of Mount Saint Vincent
Members of the Student Government Association
My Co Director and Fellows of the Millennium Fellowship Programme
Office of Public Relations and visiting press
Distinguished Student, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The most important doubt in your mind right now is Why am I here? Why am I rebelling? I should be studying or leaving campus like others to see my parents. Guess what? I ask myself the same questions, of course I can't see my parents because it would be almost 18 hours on a flight. The most empathetic response we can find is informing us that we are standing for our future. There's no present plan without climate sustainability. We are showing solidarity and demonstrating collective fight for survivability.

I have participated in a diverse climate forum. In 2018, you all helped me to vote for my project on Environmental Preservation in Liberia, which of course won the Global Young Voices SDGs World Cup among 20 Global Millennials. Last month, with support from the sisters of charity federation, I organised and spoke at two climate selective dialogues at the 68th U.N Civil Society Conference in Salt Lake City. We also launched the Youth Climate Compact which shows that young people are ready to drive policies for a healthy climate. Currently, I am serving on a Civil Society Statement drafting committee on progress and priorities for the High Level Forum on Samoa Pathway at the General Assembly. My experience with climate change shows our fight is losing and our planet is crumbling.

Given the decades of failure in policies from our leaders and multinational institutions to ensure a sustainable planet for our future we must agitate, rally and demand actions now for more robust climate change mitigation plans. As we stand for solidarity, the current death toll is rising as 70,000 residents are left homeless and seeking food and shelter in The Bahamas because of hurricane Dorian. We witnessed the state of Kerala in India suffering its worst monsoon flooding in recent history, killing 400 people and driving 1 million more from their homes. Hurricane Maria killed almost 3,000 people in Puerto Rico. African Cyclones are estimated to have affected nearly 3 million people in Mozambique and neighbouring Zimbabwe and Malawi with an estimated death of more than 1000 people. This year in Liberia, rising sea levels destroyed hundreds of houses leading to hundreds of families including mine stranded. Air pollution, deforestation and famine still remain common factors in climate change, impacting on our environment. All of these are leading to malnutrition, ill health and migration, rendering youth particularly vulnerable to suffer in most countries.

Not only is the devastation a warning, but scientists have warned that we have eleven years to mitigate disastrous climate breakdown. Currently, we are demeaning our planet and contaminating our air. In not addressing the climate emergency, the lives of our younger and future generations are threatened by indecision and inaction of our older generation. Therefore, the health and hopes of our current and future generations become less promising. As students and millennials and as young citizens who will inherit the world, we are frightened to see what the growing climate crisis means for us. We are aware that the current global crisis involves extreme droughts, floods, and storms, which are progressing in our rapidly overheating world. But despite these anxieties and disasters, you have shown greatly display that students at the College of Mount Saint Vincent do care and are striking for the climate with other prominent universities in the United States and globally. You are my hero's!

Today, we are proposing resolutions to rally actions and solidarity for our planet alongside tens of thousands of students who will be participating in the September 20th Global Climate Strike in the United States and across the world. Our resolutions are a demonstration that we can localise local action for a global impact of climate change.

Underscoring the core principle of our actions, we are proud to launch and present this resolution that classifies explicit actions we can take at the College of Mount Saint Vincent to reduce the devastating effects of the climate crisis. We rally as faculties, students and staff to vow to campaign for sensitive climate actions.

Hence, as Millennium Fellows, SGA and General Student body we recommend:

- Students should properly dispose of waste, and we advocate for improved waste management setup on campus.
- Work with the Hudson Height and Mags Kitchen staff members to find a way around single-use plastic products and packets in order to decrease the buildup of waste.
- We encourage professors to advance climate awareness in courses and organise symposium and research to ignite student's awareness and actions.
- We express dissatisfaction to the eco- hostile harms caused by multinational factory, and call for direct measure from the government and the United Nations to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, we encourage local food consumption and intensify call to support sustainable production, industrialisation and mechanisation.
- We express solidarity for the Bahamas after the devastating Hurricane Dorian that led 70,000 people to be displaced. We underscore the need for increasing humanitarian support as well as policies that facilitate their migration and integration in host countries.
- Support more student based clubs whose epicentre is shifted around environmental and sustainable issues.
- Call for an adoption of an annual planting of 50 trees at the College of Mount Saint Vincent as a medium to reverse the current trends of rising greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning and increasing forest destruction.
- We express solidarity with the Amazon forest and call for immediate actions and policies to regulate current burning thereby mitigating its occurrence.

Our deepest appreciation to you for standing with us today. We are extremely grateful to President Flynn, Dr Keli Bongiovanni, Dr Stephenson, Dr O and every member of the faculty for supporting and joining us today. We also would like to show appreciation to all of the professors staff and employees who are standing with us. The student activities board led by Fernando Mendoza and Calvin Joyner have been exceptionally resourceful to us. The sisters are a phenomenon heroin to us for fighting for this future that might have no impact to their existence. Also I would like to mention campus ministry and father Ron, our Dynamic Student Government Association who persistently multi tasked throughout this planning. My appreciation to every club that have worked with us through big sale and collaboration, including the class of 2023 and 2020. And finally we appreciate our fellows for their commitment in displaying the value and core objective of their programme.

Our goal as fellows and campus directors is to inspire the College of Mount Saint Vincent to be a tertiary educational institution of social responsibility that cultivates students to be professional societal leaders in their commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals both locally and globally. This Resolution and Walkout is the first of many proposals that will help us at CMSV to fulfil the mission of the United Nations Academic Impact, an initiative that aligns institutions of higher education with the United Nations in supporting and contributing to the recognition of United Nations goals and mandates, including the promotion and protection of human rights, access to education.

Pope Francis' call to us all to care for our common home, planet Earth and its peoples, especially those who are most impacted by the effects of climate change. Pope Francis has called on our generation youth of this world, to speak up and call the older generation to action. You have answered his call today and you are the reason we are optimistic of the future.

In closing, I will restate for emphasis with the essence of our being here. The World Meteorological Organisation, the past two decades included 18 of the warmest years since 1850, when documentation of records began. Extreme heat waves, wildfires, storms and floods are leaving a

trail of death and devastation. The state of Kerala in India suffered its worst monsoon flooding in recent history, killing 400 people and driving 1 million people to move from their homes. We are aware that Hurricane Maria killed almost 3,000 people in Puerto Rico last year, making it one of the deadliest extreme weather disasters in U.S. history. Many citizens died in the months after the storm because they lacked access to electricity, clean water, and proper healthcare. As of now the Arctic sea ice is disappearing faster than we imagined possible. This year, for the first time, thick permanent sea ice north of Greenland began to break up. This dramatic warming in the Arctic is affecting weather patterns across the northern hemisphere. Wildfires are lasting longer and spreading further. Some of the blazes are so big that they send soot and ash around the world and blacken and melt glaciers and ice caps. Oceans are becoming more acidic, threatening the foundation of the food chains that sustain life. Corals are dying in vast amounts, further depleting vital fisheries. On land, the high level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is making rice crops less nutritious, and threatening food security and the well-being of billions of people. In our community, at least 53 people died in New York as a result of Superstorm sandy in 2012. Thousands of homes and an estimate of 250,000 vehicles were destroyed during the storm. The economic losses in New York City were estimated to be roughly \$19 billion with an estimate of \$32.8 billion required for restoration across the state.

We want your commitment! On the wall is a flyer for your signature showing you hear us and want to make the change. Change that could be seen through working with an environmental club, volunteering to plant trees and sharing awareness.

We want actions.

Fight for your Future in Eleven Years before all is lost.

Thank you