

Ten days of climate hunger strike - parents show solidarity, go hungry - Updates

Press release 03

on the second press conference at Platz der Republik, Berlin, 8 September 2021

--- Photos for download, continuously updated:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1213y-NiVknrz-9MDOj323aSrZLcYx1yN> ---

**"My son's future is being gambled away,
as is the future of millions of children."**

The parents of the "last generation" are also angry, they are desperate, and they are no longer looking the other way: the hunger strike is mobilising the parents' generation. Some have joined the hunger strike. The families of the hungry are speaking out.

Berlin. Wednesday, 8 September 2021. In addition to the young hunger strikers, who have not eaten for ten days now in order to get the candidates for chancellor to have a public, honest conversation about the dramatic climate reality, older people are also present on the podium in front of the Reichstag building today - two are there in person, others with video and voice messages. They are parents of the hunger strikers and people who have joined the hunger strike in solidarity.

Eckart Pscheidl-Jeschke from Lüneburg, the father of 21-year-old Henning Jeschke, is on the podium. He personally describes the concern that all parents of all children should share: "We were always concerned that our son grow up well. Now I am very afraid for him. But I share my son's assessment and decision to go on this hunger strike." He asks the chancellor candidates, "The end of the hunger strike hangs on two demands that are easy to fulfil, it's about a conversation, please have that conversation. The second demand is the introduction of a citizens' assembly, a politically meaningful demand. I appeal to you: end the hunger strike."

Sonja Gliebe from Berlin, 39 years old, is also sitting at the table. She is there because she has also been on hunger strike since 30 August, "because I don't want to leave it to the young people alone to fight for their future." She appeals to her generation to also get involved in the climate and

environmental discourse in an activist and vehement way. "We adults did not stop the climate catastrophe, but caused and promoted it - out of carelessness. Therefore, today we must resolutely take the side of this, the last generation that can still avert a total climate collapse."

In Bonn, Elmar Keul has joined the hunger strike. He is 52 years old, a teacher of history and philosophy at an evening high school. He has also been on hunger strike for an indefinite period of time since 30 August. "For at least 30 years," he writes in a statement read out, "the German public has known about 'global warming', about the 'climate crisis' - and the politicians do: nothing! Lofty goals are proclaimed, "friendly words" we hear, for decades. For decades, nothing but drivel, nothing but chatter! I am furious! I have a 14-year-old son whose future is being gambled away, just like the future of millions of children."

Public discussion with the candidates for chancellor - reactions?

The hunger strikers have already presented the reactions to the demand for a public discussion with the candidates for chancellor: very modest. Lina Eichler, one of the hunger strikers, reports that supporters at numerous campaign events of Olaf Scholz and Annalena Baerbock have repeatedly drawn attention to the hunger strike, but Olaf Scholz has chosen "cold-hearted ignoring" as a strategy and continues to insist that climate neutrality in 2045 is enough. Annalena Baerbock had called, but above all she had asked the hungry to eat again. On the part of the hunger strikers, however, it was clear that the public conversation had to take place first. "If the Greens are as green as they say, why don't they face the conversation?" From Armin Laschet: no reaction.

Ten days of hunger strike - "Our will is unbroken!"

Dizziness, weakness, freezing ... ten days of starvation are not without consequences. Rumen Grabow, one of the hungry, reports on the condition of the group, which hardly feels hungry anymore, but is getting weaker. Individuals have lost up to seven kilos in weight. He emphasises that life is in the hands of the politicians, especially the candidates for the chancellorship. "Our will is unbroken," he concludes.

This, reports Mephisto, also a hunger sufferer, refers, as far as hunger is concerned, to six, no longer seven young people in last week's group: "Sasha Stier is no longer in hunger strike with us, but continues to support us." The strain of starving while being in the public eye like this had been too much, he said. This was a good opportunity to point out that all hungry people are free to decide at any time and that there is in no way any peer pressure to "go through" anything.

Instead, there are other people who have joined the hunger strike. In addition to Elmar from Bonn and Sonja from Berlin, Juli from Hanover and Erik from the Climate Alliance Schwerin have also

started a solidarity hunger strike. The hunger strikers are happy about the response and the solidarity expressed. However, the team makes it clear once again that they in no way want to inspire or even invite people to put themselves in danger through ill-considered and unprepared hunger strikes.

The parents of the hunger strikers are angry - not at their children

Support is coming from all the families of the hunger-striking young people - parents are worried, desperate, angry. The mother of 22-year-old Simon Helmstedt has a very personal letter read out. In it she writes: "To see my son crying and to experience his despair and anger is hardly bearable. ... For my imagination, the hunger strike is already the last resort that one can choose as a fighter. And if they fail with this strike, what comes next?" She concludes with an appeal to the candidates for chancellor: "Please reach out to the strikers and listen to the reasons for their hunger strike - and expose yourself to their despair."

Call from parents to parents – Go for it!

The press conference closes with the appeal read out by the mother of Jacob Heinze, one of the hunger strikers. She also addresses her generation, those over 55: "To be woken up, by your own son, with the call: 'Our lives are in danger!' is not only frightening and scary. It also makes me feel ashamed. I feel shame NOT because the hunger strikers are doing something that seems too radical to succeed, but it shames me for not trying much sooner to protect my son's life, life on this earth in general."

She points out that the children nevertheless do not accuse the parents' generation, but instead call on them not only to talk or "to listen noddingly to wise critics, perhaps even to freeze in horror and rather enjoy the next distraction, but to act".

She also appeals to politicians: "Six young people are sitting in Berlin and starving. Dear candidates for the chancellorship, these young people have a message for you!"

The hunger strike of the last generation continues.

For information on the hunger strikers, the scientific background to which the strikers refer, and questions and answers about the strike in Berlin, please see previous press releases:

<http://hungerstreik2021.de/pressemitteilungen/>

Press contact:

Hannah Lübbert, Michael Salzgeber

E-mail: presse@hungerstreik2021.de Phone: +49 (0)151 45351679

Website: <http://hungerstreik2021.de/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/hungerstreik21/>