

Vivienne Harr, *No One Behind*, Vatican City - March 9, 2019

Good afternoon.

My name is Vivienne Harr. I am 15 years old. I spoke here when I was 11, and I am honored and grateful to be of service and speak here again. It's always uplifting to come to Vatican City! Thank you, Your Eminence Cardinal Turkson, for your gracious invitation. You are important to me, to my family – and to our global family.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am here as a voice for the 1.9 billion children around the world. I am here as a voice for those without one. I am here to use my voice to urge each of you to safeguard the future of our common home – and its most vulnerable inhabitants – and come together to build a world that includes *everyone*.

This begins...by listening. We must *listen* to the cry of the Earth. We must *listen* to the cry of the poor.

We. Must. Listen.

What do we do when someone cries? We listen. We console. And, we should try to make things better. When my little brother jumps off his bed and hurts his foot and cries (which he does a lot!), I love him. Then, I put a band

aid on his foot. I try to make things better. I have compassion, and then I take *action*.

This is what we must do for the Earth. This is what we must do for the poor. Compassion is not compassion without action. It's just feeling sorry for someone.

Each of us has a duty to build a world that leaves no one behind. It's not enough to feel sorry for the excluded. We must reach out to them, we must hear their cries and we must take action to include them – because they are our brothers and sisters. And they have a *right* to be included.

When we care for one other, we begin to build bridges. And, those bridges form structures to lasting peace.

I learned that the Latin term for Pope is “Pontifex.” It means “bridge maker.” Isn't that beautiful? *Bridge maker*.

There are walls – both real and imagined – between us. But, no wall is high enough to block tenderhearted people determined to help one another.

We must leave no one behind. We must break down the barriers and reach out to one another and work together to build a world that includes everyone, everywhere.

We share a common future, and we are here to find common ground to take action to leave no one behind.

Anyone, anywhere can serve the world's poorest people in big and beautiful ways. Anyone, anywhere can build bridges. Anyone, anywhere can make a difference.

This may sound like the naive optimism of a young person. It's not. We *can* safeguard the future of our common home – and its most vulnerable inhabitants – in the interest of peace. We can build a world that includes everyone. We can do it, because we *must* do it.

I would like to underline this sentence: compassion is not compassion without action.

Now, in the interest of leaving no one behind, we need action. I call on each of you to take action. And we have a symbolic act to help make that happen. Someone special will help me with that. My brother, Turner, is going to ask you to do something important:

Turner Harr, *Call to Action*, Vatican City - March 9, 2019

“Hello. I am Turner. I am 9. I am honored to be here. We kids won’t remember what you said. **We will remember what you did. This time, we’re leaving no one behind.** So, there is a board up there where you can write down your commitments to build a world that **leaves no one behind.** Please take time to do this. We kids thank you!”