

How the Plastic Stole the Ocean

By Aimee Chuang

In the Pacific Ocean, floating along with the dolphins and whales, is a garbage patch two times larger than the state of Texas. Sea turtles mistake grocery bags for jellyfish; penguins get strangled in six-pack rings. We need to prevent the tragic deaths of animals from ocean pollution.

Plastic and trash leak and flow into the oceans. The Great Pacific garbage patch is full of dangerous and harmful things. Tragically over a 100,000 marine animals die from ocean pollution each year. Single-use plastics like plastic bottles take hundreds of years to break down small pieces to millimeters, yet they never truly disappear. Fish mistake plastic fragments for plankton; consequently, the plastic fills their stomach, so they think they are full. They eventually die from hunger. Millions of tons of trash are flowing into the ocean, harming sea life.

Plastic is a helping hand to human life, but it also kills over a million marine animals a year. Less than 9% of plastic recycled is actually reused; therefore, most of the plastic tragically escapes into the ocean. As a result, one in three fish that are caught for human consumption actually contains plastic. Many innocent species of marine life swallow these dreadful plastic pieces, creating a catastrophic issue.

However, this crisis is solvable. Humans that use one-use plastics are a big part of pollution. One solution is to stop using straws and cups that are foam or plastic. Bring your own cup and ask your favorite drink store to fill it up. Bringing reusable grocery bags helps a lot too! From the comfort of your home, you can donate to organizations like The Ocean Cleanup, Ocean Blue Project, and 4Ocean. The Ocean Cleanup is taking 1000 of the most polluting rivers with their boats powered by solar energy. Locally you can participate in beach cleanups. Ocean pollution is a resolvable issue if we can all do our part.

With just a few dollars donated, the organizations mentioned will pull a few pounds of trash out of the ocean. Many animals currently suffer while you read this. However, you can save the next generation of turtles and dolphins.

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The Climate Crisis

By Mackenzie Hotovec

Intense storms rip through towns and cities while the Arctic is melting and polar animals are perishing at alarming rates. These are the consequences of global warming, and every one of us are victims of it. Global warming is a crisis and we must act fast if we want to rescue and protect our planet.

Between the Arctic melting, the more extreme storms, and the ocean heating up, we can all agree that global warming is a pandemic that affects us all. It has been having a large effect on the arctic specifically. The polar animals are losing habitat quickly as the oceans are heating; therefore, the coral reefs are dying. It is devastating to know the lack of knowledge and ability to

take action in some people, and the rapid rate of heating makes it harder to reverse, even with some working to help. If we don't act quickly, then the planet will be destroyed.

Life is becoming more difficult for us all due to global warming. It is linked to more extreme weather, such as bigger tornados, stronger hurricanes, droughts, flooding, heat waves, and heavier rainfall. This means there is a higher risk of storm damages and possible more deaths. This is because the average surface temperature has risen about two degrees celsius since the early 19th century. The cause for more strong storms is because storms are powered by heat and the ocean; if the ocean is heating, that leads to stronger storms. If we continue to let this issue go, the more problematic and dangerous it will become.

However, we can still reverse the effects of global warming. If we all do our part in these simple solutions, we can make a big difference. If we start to walk or bike to places instead of walking and take public transportation or carpool if the distance is too far, that would be a start. In addition, we could use electric or hybrid cars, and turn off lights we are not currently using to conserve energy. These solutions are decently simple; we don't have much time to reverse global warming. If we want to save our planet, we must put these solutions into place now.

If we all do our part, our planet can be saved. The powerful storms, droughts, flooding, and heat waves can be stopped if we simply work together as mankind to fix our mistakes. Unfortunately, if we do not, then we will have to suffer the consequences.

Slavery of Youth

By Owen Cook

Millions of youth are toiling in toxic mines and farms with bladed machinery and collapsing tunnels. The choking dust and poisoned water extinguish 12.6 million lives a year. Any child can become a laborer with one financial issue. Child labor prevents education and full lives with its long, strenuous hours.

Child labor is the exploitation of children for cheap labor. This atrocity is found throughout Africa, but it is found in America as well. It mainly affects boys, refugees in particular. The females who are trapped in child labor are usually performing oppressive domestic chores. Financial difficulties are the prime cause of this monstrosity against children; these include when main money makers in the family get fired and experience sudden poverty and debt. Child labor was starting to decrease until the rise of COVID- 19 made it worse. Child labor is a horror that exploits children for underpaid labor in dangerous locales.

Many people feel child labor has been eradicated; however, this is far from true. It still occurs in the USA in farming. The toil causes over 2,083 deaths an hour, 49,992 a day, 1.5 million a month, and 12.6 million a year. Despite protections on children under 14, many kids work eleven hours a day in brick kilns in Turkey. However, Sub-Saharan communities contain the majority of this atrocity. Unfortunately, the materials for achieving safe energy are mined by child laborers. The numbers of child labor eclipse what most expect.

Child labor may seem impossible to stop; however, this is false. Activists are already fighting against it. Schools can educate children of their rights and allow them to know they can escape. Simply donating a little to schools and the families of child laborers will set the kids free. Also by aiding groups raising awareness or fighting against child labor like Human Rights Watch, have UN affiliated Unicef, and the educational Child Labor Coalition can end child labor forever. By trying to acquire better equipment and water purifiers can reduce deaths massively. Despite the huge numbers of child labor it can be halted without equally massive effort and money.

Child labor is a gargantuan issue worldwide, with children becoming laborers as a result of financial issues. However, like most huge problems, the issue is larger than the solution. Give your support, and children will be saved. Together is the way child labor will be defeated, together we will make the world know how widespread it is, and together we can end it once and for all.

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World Hunger: A Global Sized Portion

By Gabe Sands

A baby whines as the mother gives each child their meager portion of bread for the day. The boys go out and work while the girls gather water for countless hours. Starving, they come home, but there isn't enough food left. Hundreds of millions of people lack nutrition; world hunger is a giant crisis that we must solve.

World hunger isn't just your stomach grumbling, it is the plight of long term deprivation of food. In Africa and Sub-Saharan areas, starvation is devastatingly common. It affects one in five of the population, many of whom are poor and can't get what they need. World hunger is caused by numerous concerns such as conflict, inequity, and climate change. It won't be easy to solve. World hunger is a compound problem that also has a variety of issues that stem from it. Next time you eat some delicious food, remember that you are lucky, as 783 million can't get the nutrition they need.

It is tough to understand hunger from the safety of our homes; nevertheless, it is a colossal issue. Hundreds of millions of people face long term hunger. In fact, most of these sufferers reside in the 42 countries that have alarming or serious food insecurity problems. Also, nearly half of child deaths are related to hunger. These children die young, and in their short lifespan, they are starving and hopeless. These statistics are alarming, but we can alter that. It may seem impossible to stop this, but it is possible with all of our help.

Stopping hunger begins with you. By donating just a small amount of money to organizations like the International Rescue Committee or Action Against Hunger, you can help save many lives. These organizations rely on donations to feed victims of hunger in starving countries. Also, spreading awareness of this growing issue is another step towards stopping hunger. By informing the world of this major problem or spending some spare change, you can become the change that we need.

Hunger devastates families, lives, and the well-being of the population all over the world. Millions die or can never make a good life for themselves. Mothers can't feed their children. Together though, we can end world hunger. By doing just small deeds, you can positively affect people in need.

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The Pit of Poverty
By Hazel McKinney

A baby wails loudly, its hungry cry piercing the night. Nora sits, huddled in the corner, her empty stomach growling. Thirst clutches her throat. The sky is a dark blanket of clouds, trapping her, just like poverty kept her as a prisoner to its will. Horribly, 566 million children suffer as victims of poverty today.

Poverty is when an individual does not have the resources they need to live in suitable conditions. Men, women, and children are victims of poverty in low-income countries like India, Nigeria, The Democratic Republic of Congo, and Bangladesh. Due to discrimination, the struggling country where they live, or job loss, 67% of people live in extreme poverty. There are so many victims of poverty, yet many fortunate others do not seem to be concerned.

Humans all over the world have fallen into the dark pit of poverty. Every day, almost 700 million wake up to face this crisis. Almost half of the population of the globe must provide food, water, and shelter for themselves with only \$6.85 per day. Furthermore, more than 566 million children cannot go to school every day or even eat a proper meal because of the dark looming shadow of poverty. These statistics may be shocking to you; however, for many it has just become a way of life.

Despite this tragic crisis, there are people out there working to help, and you can be one of them. Donate just \$15 to a charity working to stop poverty; you can save lives! Working as a volunteer is another way to make an impact. Organizations like Compassion and Light of Life are already working to stop poverty. They sponsor children, provide medical care, and have food drives. Even if you cannot donate, inform others about the poverty crisis and refrain from supporting companies that are not fair trade or support child labor. Don't think you are too small to face the giant of poverty because you can make a difference. You can be the change. But it's up to you. Will you sit back and watch, or will you take action today?

Next time you turn on the faucet, come home to a warm meal, or put on a pair of clean clothes, remember Nora and her family. Remember others like her who are trapped in the same dark prison of poverty. Somewhere, right now, is a young child who has no hope left. Nothing. But you can give them everything.

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Stopping World Warming
By Sophia Evans

A polar bear cries for help. It's stuck on a small chunk of ice! Its ribs are visible, and it's

sweating. This is because of global warming. Global warming needs to be stopped before it becomes irreversible and Antarctica doesn't exist anymore.

Global warming is a major issue that will become unstoppable, and everyone will regret not even trying. Global warming is when the earth is heating up until, unless inhibited, snow won't exist. All throughout the world, it is becoming less and less cold; the current warming is happening at a rate not seen in ten thousand years. Unfortunately, there is a 99.9999% chance that humans are responsible, by clearing trees, burning fossil fuels, and increasing the amount of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere. That is affecting plants and animals like Brook Trout, bears, and arctic animals.

Snow is coming later and later around the world because of global warming. Humans have influenced 68% of all extreme weather conditions in the last twenty years. Not only that, but now plants are blooming earlier than they should, or shifting to cooler locations, affecting the ecosystem in unimaginable ways. Sadly, it would take \$140 billion a year to adapt to climate change. We have already cleaned 30% of all forests on the planet, which is decreasing the amount of oxygen in the air. If we plant more trees, we can slow and maybe even end global warming.

This problem is preventable. You can donate to Arab Forum for Environmental and Development (AFED), an organization working to promote environmental education, and who has already published an awareness magazine. There is also the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), which works to coordinate the Caribbean region's response to global warming by identifying solutions. Climate Alliance, another group trying to stop global

warming, promotes actions to slow climate change. If you don't have enough money to donate; however, you can just inform other people about it.

You could rescue that poor polar bear, sweating and stuck on the ice, unable to catch any prey. You can donate, or spread awareness for climate change. We can limit carbon pollution and reduce water waste. We can aid this crisis, one step at a time.

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You Can Make a Difference By Gianna Fanuele

Mouths dry and feet aching, young children and their mothers are on the long journey to collect water. This tireless task takes place every morning for many people. After hours of walking, they discover that the water they just collected is too polluted to drink. They have no other option but to do their twelve hours worth of labor all while dehydrated and tired. This is a serious problem called the water crisis. It is a global issue that causes people to have little access to drinking water or clean sanitation.

This takes place mainly in rural communities in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. The only water they have to drink is polluted and dirty. Drinking this water can give them terrible diseases like cholera and diarrhea; however, the only other choice they have is boiling it, which gets rid of

over 50% of the water, and sometimes still leaves dangerous parasites. This is a sad reality for so many people, more than you might think.

Many do not understand how severe this crisis really is. For example, every two minutes a child dies from a water related illness, and by 2040, one in four children will be living in areas of water stress. On top of that, one in three schools do not have access to basic sanitation and clean water. This is extremely alarming considering how many children's lives are at risk. We need to help suffering countries, or we could be the ones with no water in the future.

However, this crisis is solvable. There are many organizations that you can donate to including the U.S. Water Alliance and World Vision. Something you can do that doesn't require any money is pretty simple: be aware of your water usage. Taking shorter showers is a great way to start. You can also recycle water to save more! With your help, we can make a difference.

Change for a better world comes from taking action. So next time we take an ice cold sip of water, we can think of children in Africa that have nothing to drink for days. This issue can't be solved without our help.

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Helping Hungry Humans Dylan Ford

Rumbling stomachs, frail bodies, sad faces, and eyes full of tears. This is what the average victim of starvation looks like. Now imagine being one of the 828 million people who go hungry each night. In Africa alone, one out of five go hungry every day, and 2.8 billion people around the world cannot afford a healthy diet. You need to aid. World hunger kills hundreds of people every day and millions go to bed hungry. You need to be the change.

When many people are hungry, they can often go to the fridge or pantry, but this is not the reality for many people. World hunger affects many countries such as South Madagascar, Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, Myanmar, and Ukraine, with Ethiopia and Kenya being the worst. Bad climate, poverty, economy, and conflict/instability are all causes of world hunger. Many people suffer malnutrition; therefore, two in every 10,000 die every day. The next time you open your fridge or pantry, remember how lucky we are to have something to eat.

Many places struggle with the economy and hunger. Four nations make up for over 50% of world hunger: Yemen, Afghanistan, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo. It is crazy to think about how many people in those countries are starving. Fifty-one countries are affected by world hunger, but 50% of starvation is located in those four nations. Children often experience wasting

and stunting which is bad for development. That is very sad to think about; kids can't properly grow or enjoy childhood. We need to assist these countries.

After reading this, you probably want to know where to assist. A great way to help is donating to Rise Against Hunger. They have donated over 57.4 million meals worldwide. Another good

organization is Concern Worldwide. They help give proper nourishment to places all over the globe. Lastly, WFP helps over 100 developing countries without proper nutrition and food. Just \$5 to these organizations, and you will be able to feed someone. All these organizations are trying to help the big problem of world hunger.

Hundreds of millions are dying due to malnutrition with no food. There are many people trying to help out, and you can be that person. With just \$5, you can give a meal to someone struggling. You can also help by spreading awareness on social media. By donating or spreading awareness, you're not only helping, you're saving lives.

Malaria, Maniac Mosquitos **By Elizabeth Hall**

A buzzing sound filled the air as Miss Shaleen stepped out of her house. She knew what it would be: mosquitos. Immediately, she felt thousands of blood-suckers on her flesh. Malaria is a horrible disease where mosquitos transfer parasites.

Miss Shaleen is always surrounded by hundreds of mosquitos, and doesn't like the thought of getting malaria. As mosquitos fly around and bite the civilians of African countries, they transfer the parasites. The parasites cause malaria, and when it spreads to children it will get much worse. They can easily die. Impacts of malaria can get very painful, as people get fevers, chills, fatigue, nausea, and much more. Malaria has one way it can be transferred, and that way can be stopped.

Malaria is a big problem; it's not just itchy bites you get. About 365,000 children under five die from malaria each year. They wake up in the middle of the night with fever and chills, making it hard to be comfortable in sleep. Organizations have budgets in the billions to help stop malaria. If you donate to one of the organizations, it can help a lot. While many people sit in mosquito nets in Africa, we can give them money so they don't need to.

The crisis is solvable; however, it can't be done by one person. The World Health Organization and United to Beat Malaria are working to stop malaria. When you donate money, you can do it online so you don't have to go anywhere. By donating, many people will get shots so that they don't have to die. You can also let others know about it. Additionally, you can do a fundraiser lemonade stand or do a race to raise money. Then, you can give the money to one of the charities, and they will use it to get shots and send them to somewhere with malaria.

Next time you go to the doctor, and are dreading getting a shot, think of Miss Shaleen who would be grateful for it. You can make a difference, and it is very easy. By just donating a dollar, it will help. Give money today, or make others aware of this problem, so that malaria will be no more.

Drinking Dirt

Shiloh Zeise

Imagine a young girl walking everyday to get water that isn't even clean. Some people don't have to picture it because it isn't their life. These girls are helping their family with something they shouldn't have to do. Together we can end the water crisis. No one should have to walk far to get their water.

When some people brush their teeth, they often leave the water running. This takes away water that kids all around the world need. The water crisis is when someone has to walk mind blowing hours to get water; this is crazy. Our factories are affecting their water as well as animals and climate change. When they are walking to the water, we are going to school and our parents are working. That means they don't get the education and money they need; however, this can change. Next time you brush your teeth, think about the kids who don't have the water to do so.

This problem is all over our earth and will take over soon if we don't act quickly. Approximately one billion people die from dirty water each year. These people will never get the full experience of life. The water crisis has caused other global issues, too. Some may include poverty, population decrease, and poor health. About every twenty seconds a child dies from a water related disease, which means they will never have a childhood. This problem will continue to grow, but only if we let it.

This problem can be solved. All it takes is a donation to a charity or organization such as Water.org or Charity:Water. You can donate just ten dollars a month to get families water. They help bring ease to the women and children walking long amounts of time to get water that isn't clean. They do this by giving them money, water, or both. We can stop this as well, by turning off water when we aren't using it and stop throwing away half full water bottles. There are many ways to make a positive impact.

The water crisis is terrible and hurting people like that young girl. She just wants to enjoy her life, but instead she's walking for water. We can end this issue if we work together. All it takes is a simple act that anyone can do.