

Please only write on the front of this sheet in BLACK INK and do not mark above this line or your message may not be recognised.

1. Like many people, I was aware from a young age that things were not right with the world. I was privileged enough not to be at the sharp end of social inequality myself, but I had a persistent sense of imbalance, and of the injustice playing out across the world.

How my age has played a part is that I believe my path into resistance has been clearer than it might have been if I was older, with dependants, ~~many~~ many more competing responsibilities and many more years of socialisation to keep me in line.

Of course being at the beginning of my life and knowing that I may well never reach the age of my grandparents due to climate and social breakdown lends a particularly personal edge to it, but ~~equally~~ equally I know many older people driven by fierce love and anger on behalf of their children and grandchildren to engage in direct action.

Fundamentally, I was drawn to the climate movement because through it I could glimpse a vision of love, trust and togetherness which ~~was~~ is so painfully absent from the fast-paced churn of life under capitalism (which is of course the economic driver of the climate crisis).

2. When I first got involved - no way. But after I had taken direct action a few times and experienced being arrested, I remember thinking that I would probably be sent to prison at some point. I had no idea how it would happen, but I was seeing it happen to more and more action-takers, and as the judiciary's response got harsher and harsher it became a question not of "if" but of when, and for how long.

I didn't expect a sentence of this length until the trial itself, when the judge was giving hints that he would be putting us away for a long time. And yet a large part of me was not surprised: a very harsh sentence like this doesn't make sense morally or legally, but it does make sense politically. It is the latest in a series of escalating punishments for nonviolent direct action. Unfortunately, if we expected resistance to the government and their fossil fuel backers to be met with a soft response, we were always kidding ourselves.

3. The laws aren't targeting climate activists alone. There has been a surge in direct action protest on every front, ~~not just the climate crisis~~ from Black Lives Matter to Palestine Action, as well as the huge increase in climate action. It seems to me that ~~anti~~ the new laws are a response to all of it.

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They target anyone who voices dissent in a way that poses a real challenge to the status quo.

But they go beyond deliberate acts of protest, giving the police and the courts more power to interfere in the lives of anyone who doesn't fit a narrow social and economic model—such as the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community, whose nomadic way of life has been criminalised and made practically impossible by the PECS Act 2022 (one of the recent anti-protest laws).

It's about crushing anyone who strays from the path expected of us under ~~capitalism~~ racial capitalism, whether through conscious dissent or through a way of life or an identity that is undesirable to that system.

The fossil fuel industry is most definitely involved, along with the arms lobby and other powerful groups with vested interests.

Parliament makes these laws, and with the number of ~~meetings with~~ ~~and~~ donations from ~~these lobbyists~~ and meetings with these lobbyists that occur inside Parliament, how could there not be a significant influence there?

4. It is a pretty clear message isn't it! You're demanding change that puts our power and profit at risk, so you must be stopped.

I don't know how likely it is that the laws will change for the better, given the financial power of the oil and gas lobby and the way politicians and the mainstream media stoke a culture of division and blame, and glorify being "tough on crime".

It's ironic really, because since these laws were implemented, direct action protest has only increased, and all it's doing is filling up already crowded prisons and subjecting everyone (not just those who'd call themselves activists) to more intrusion and state surveillance of their lives.

One thing that could make a difference would be if the legal profession taking a stand to say—no, there is a limit to what laws I can morally and constitutionally enforce.

At the moment they are beholden to government, obliged to ~~carry out~~ ~~judicial processes~~ work with laws funded by the fossil fuel and arms companies.

But throughout history, entire institutions and professions have withdrawn their labour and their consent, when continuing to give it is clearly contributing to massive harm.

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Comments Rather, our actions were an attempt to stop the mass starvation and loss of life scientifically proven to be the consequence of new oil and gas extraction.

6. I am not so arrogant as to think I have anything new to say. My message to climate campaigners in the UK and the people involved simply draws on my own experiences with the movement, but mostly from conversations with and the work of others much wiser than me. That includes others in the movement and from other spheres of social activism, and also includes people I have met in prison (the place where all injustices forms of injustice coincide).

The outlook for the coming decades is becoming ever more tragic, and the prospect of catastrophic ecological collapse more and more real.

Number Every fraction of a degree matters, as we know—that is why we keep fighting to stop the harm. At the same time, we are also having to face up to the considerable ~~harm~~^{impacts} that are now baked in and unavoidable. I hope that this will push the climate movement to expand its vision beyond greenhouse gases and temperature rises, and engage with intersectional injustice in a really meaningful way.

Date/Time of Call Divide and Rule is the ruling class' best strategy to uphold capitalism and their own power.

Divide and Rule makes fascism inevitable as society becomes ever more strained by economic and ecological collapse.

Its antidote is solidarity. True solidarity is ~~doing our own~~ means being humble, doing our own internal anti-oppression work, and putting our bodies on the line with everyone at the sharp end of state violence.

Our power is much greater when we learn from and share with people we may not immediately identify with, but who are all allies if we can have the humility to recognise it. It's really hard work, because capitalism discourages true solidarity, and it does so for a reason. ~~It thrives when we~~ Violence thrives when we are divided.

Prisoner Having the grace to reach out across those divisions is a matter of wholeness, and a matter of survival.

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5. I can only speak to what is within my lived experience, which includes ~~misleading~~ misleading popular narratives about people involved in the campaigns I have been a part of.

The first thing to get clear is that the responsibility for prevailing and often damaging misconceptions lies first and foremost with the right wing press.

One of the stock images churned out by those papers is the "eco-zealot" - a fanatic who doesn't care about her fellow citizens, and makes their lives a misery because she thinks her opinions are worth more than anyone else's opinions.

This is nothing short of a blatant lie from the right-wing press; it is completely upside down on almost every level. The only thing that is true in that characterisation is that climate action in the last few years has often involved actions disrupting the ~~general public~~ other members of the public (more on that in a minute).

The people I have met engaging in nonviolent direct action are some of the most empathetic, sensitive and generous people I know. The sort of people who checks in with the guy they see crying on the bus, who buy a hot drink for the person sleeping rough on the streets. They are all open to hearing ~~opinions~~ from people with radically different viewpoints to their own, and trying to find common ground.

That is exactly why they take action - not because they want to or think it is their right to laud it over other people, but because they love those people as fellow human beings. The ruling class is driving a crisis which threatens every citizen of every country on earth, and the sad truth is that visible, disruptive action is the main thing that keeps it on the political agenda because it is the only kind of action that the media takes any notice of.

The misconception is that the people taking action don't care. The truth is that we are in fact in a constant state of moral tension, conflicted about disrupting other members of the public like ourselves, whilst being left with very few alternatives to keep the crisis on the table.

It's quite terrifying that the eco-zealot rhetoric was full-frontal in the trial that led to my imprisonment, not from the prosecution but from a ~~supposed~~ the judge, who is supposed to be completely neutral in the proceedings. Over and over again he referred to our actions as "expressions of opinion and belief", and our attempts to give evidence about the climate crisis (the only reason the actions happened) he called "political grandstanding".

7. It has taken away the obvious things - choice, agency, contact with loved ones, access to the natural world - things that some of us are lucky enough to take for granted most of the time.

But I am very lucky - as prisons go, I am in one of the better ones. ~~I have books, enough to eat, and I can see the sky out of my window. Many people on the outside don't have any of those~~

I have some measure of privacy, enough to eat, and I can see trees outside my window.

Many other prisons ~~do~~ do not have those things, and sadly many people on the outside cannot count on those basic things either.

So I am not sitting here feeling sorry for myself. I have a huge amount to be grateful for.

Beyond that, this sentence has already given me the opportunity to meet some extraordinary people. Every day I hear another story full of sadness, injustice and resilience - I am honoured to be able to learn from countless imprisoned women who have been through far worse ordeals than me. It is humbling, and makes me endlessly grateful for the good fortune I have had in life.

8. My sole aspiration for the future is to be a good person and live my values through my actions.

That is something that I can always work to achieve, regardless of what is happening around me.

The future is so uncertain, and the terrifying outlook ~~of~~ of ecological and social ~~and~~ upheaval in the coming decades makes a fantasy out of any material aspirations and dreams I might otherwise have had.

But being a good person, standing up for what is right - that is something I can work for whatever the future brings.