



PRESENTATION KIT

OPTIONAL FOR Intermission #1 : Why Not to Listen to Adults Who Tell Us We Could Not Change / Create a Good the World

If your group is somewhat confused about

- not listening to adults who tell us changing the world was „impossible“ or „hopeless“
- being DIFFERENT from our parent / adult generations

use this text

It is unusual for many young people to acknowledge that adults have no clue. But in this field, of changing the world, it is the case. Our parent generations have not dreamed up and achieved these things. It has reasons. Our parents and grandparents grew up very, very different, for example without global, environmental and project-oriented learning.

Schools in the Sixties and Seventies were coined by mechanical memorization, even the baton! They did not grow up with priorities about the environment, non-violence, global collaboration, smart development, social entrepreneurship, youth leadership, student clubs, project-oriented learning, international volunteering, exchanges and awesome friendships across cultures and generations.

Many adults, especially the old decision-makers in politics and business, born in the Fifties, grew up in times of racism, of women being less valuable, less genius than men (which is a variation of racism), a blind belief that riches make you happy, a belief in mythical good kings and presidents, in „evil“ enemy nations, some even grew up in fascism or monarchies, where criticism of the king gets you in prison or decapitated.

Altogether, these beliefs and lifestyles share the traits of disempowerment, of obedience, lacking capacity, community and means for re-shaping the world and society the way we wish them to be.

But the has profoundly changed over the past fifteen years, since your parents are in their workplace. Designing projects, apps and campaigns, communicating with peers around

the globe, producing media and mobilizing millions of people has become part of teenage lifestyle. Even if we do not star, but are participating in those ventures as audience, we know that teen power can reach everywhere.

And inside - we know what makes a good life; we are not meant to be slaves and feel miserable, we are meant to feel good, be creative and awesome, everyone of us, in our own ways, loud or silent.

Also, we know that adult society is broken. The environment, economy, food and health; in the USA, one in two kids suffers from a chronic disease. This is still unimaginable in other places; in Europe, it is one in ten. We are meant to be healthy, it is easy. Violence is on the rise; online, in war, in politics, on the streets, even in our schools and families. For no meaningful reason. We all know that there is enough for everyone, and that we all want peace and justice; for ourselves and everybody else.

This is why teen Adora Svitak, world-famous for her first book at age 7, her TED Talk „What Adults Can Learn from Kids“, called „intellectual royalty“ and „the smartest kid on the planet“ bluntly says two famous things about adults and our generation:

(1) "Coming of age in a digital world, young people like me are redefining ourselves. We are not stock characters in a storybook: the victims in distress waiting to be rescued when the grown-ups arrive, or the narcissistic villains of the “me generation.” Our world is no fairytale. And yet perhaps one of the most precious things about people my age is that, even as we break free from the dichotomous assumptions about us as characters within the story, we strive for the same ending. You see, in all the naïveté, or hope, of my youth, I want to believe—no matter how great the conflicts, how vicious the problems—that our story will end with the same oft-heard line as so many childhood tales: “and so they lived happily ever after.” - Adora Svitak, UN Economic and Social Council Youth Forum 2013

(2) „The idea of education is not to turn us into your kind of adults, but into better adults than you have been.“

If we did not believe and take steps to create a better world, we are doomed to go down the drain with the escalating dysintegration that current adult generations are creating. Is that a good option? Craig, We Day, studies and millions involved show us another option.