

First News has teamed up with **sky kids** show **FYI** and the **young audiences** CONTENT FUND to make a series of videos for you to watch at home or at school, called **Kidversation**. Across the world, children are fighting for their right to a better life. It's UNICEF's World Children's Day on 20 November, a day that marks the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, an international agreement to take care of children. The theme of this year's World Children's Day is climate change so, this week, Braydon meets Mya-Rose, who says the rights of children everywhere are under threat from the climate crisis.



BRAYDON MEETS MYA-ROSE

BRAYDON: Our planet is home to 2.2 billion children. And we have legal rights. Rights to nutritious food, clean water, and a safe place to live. Now, though, all that is at risk... from hurricanes, droughts, flooding and wildfires. The climate crisis threatens our health, our wellbeing, even our very survival. While millions of us have been taking part in climate change protests, Mya-Rose took her campaign even further... the Arctic! She went all the way to one of the planet's ice caps, which is melting because of global warming.

MYA-ROSE: It feels like a real tragedy to me because it's such a beautiful place, with such amazing, unique wildlife, and we're destroying it, we're melting it and we're going to lose it forever before we even realise what we had. I think being on a tiny ice floe like this and just floating in the middle of a sea of slush has really just reminded me how delicate the Arctic is and all of the sea ice here. We're past the point of a wake-up call. We're past the point of ignorance. We have to act now or we're going to lose everything.

BRAYDON: So what did you learn from your trip to the Arctic? Are you even more fearful for the future now?

MYA-ROSE: Yeah, I mean, I think it was a terrifying trip just because it really felt like I was seeing the climate crisis in action. It was a really stark reminder of just how connected everything in the world is.

BRAYDON: I know this much – global warming is caused by us humans sending harmful gases, like carbon dioxide, into the atmosphere. Those gases, from things like power stations, factories and cars, trap heat from the sun around our planet, causing it to warm up. And the most obvious effect is the melting of our ice caps. It means our ocean levels are rising, flooding other countries and affecting the world's climate as the temperature of the water changes.

MYA-ROSE: I have a lot of family in Bangladesh, which is a country that's been really, really badly affected by climate change, especially flooding and storms, and it was so weird to look at this ice melting on the top of the world and remember that was affecting people back in Bangladesh where there are four million climate change refugees in the capital at the moment. There's extreme poverty, extreme drought and famine,

I'm Mya-Rose from Somerset in England, and I've been campaigning for action to protect the environment since I was 11 years old.

and it feels like nobody's even talking about these issues.

BRAYDON: Mya-Rose's message is that if you think climate change is just a problem happening thousands of miles away, and we don't really need to worry about it, then think again. She is taking me to one of her favourite places... the Shapwick Heath National Nature Reserve near Glastonbury. Why is this place so special to you?

MYA-ROSE: Well, I'm a massive birdwatcher and I always have been. As you can see, it's amazing for birds. I've seen over half of the world's bird species now but I still love coming back to the Somerset Levels to see what I can see. The problem in the UK is that we're running out of amazing habitat like this because we're building on it. But also because of climate change, we're losing loads and loads of habitat.

BRAYDON: Does climate change affect the children in Somerset as well?

MYA-ROSE: Yeah, absolutely. If the sea rises even slightly this entire landscape would be gone, which obviously would be terrible for the birds, but people are at risk too. About six years ago in 2014 there were terrible floods and people's homes got swept away, their livestock got swept away and it really hurt a lot of people. And since then, floods have become more and more regular because of climate change. It's really damaging people's lives, basically. It's not just these other countries across the world that are being affected. It's happening right here, right now, in the UK.

YOUTH STRIKE FOR CLIMATE

unicef 
for every child

BRAYDON: So we've got to stop it, haven't we?

MYA-ROSE: Yeah, absolutely.

BRAYDON: One of Mya-Rose's idols is the environmental activist Greta Thunberg. And, in February, they got to share a stage at a Youth Strike for the Climate event, here in the UK.

MYA-ROSE: It was literally one of the coolest days of my life. I knew she was coming to Bristol but I never expected to get the email asking me to speak on stage with her. It was literally just like, oh my gosh, I'm going to meet Greta, like I was fan-girling a little bit.

BRAYDON: Meeting Mya-Rose has really opened my eyes to the crisis that we're facing from climate change. It's all very well, governments promising to give us rights as children. But, if they don't even try to tackle this climate crisis soon, all of our rights – like having a safe place to live, and even a healthy environment to grow up in – could easily disappear.

MYA-ROSE: It's really difficult as children to feel as though you're being heard but there are so many little things that you can do that help so much – whether it's riding your bike more, or recycling, or eating less meat. But, also, I think making sure that your voice as a young person is heard, making sure that you're going to protests and signing petitions. It's so important at the moment.



Kids – you can watch this Kidversation at [first.news/kidversation](https://www.firstnews.co.uk/kidversation)

Teachers – you can watch the film in the classroom alongside our tie-in award-winning educational resources at schools.firstnews.co.uk