

FEL COMPETITION ENTRY

By

I Wright

FALKIRK WRITERS CIRCLE

About the impact of climate change on the lives of writers in Scotland.

As a writer in Scotland I am acutely aware of the impact of climate change on the fictional characters I might now create and the feelings and beliefs they might have. To this end I interviewed someone younger than myself to check how they feel in the times we now live in.

As a person just 30 years old what issue connected with climate change affects you the most?

Physically it is definitely the extreme changes in temperature between seasons, particularly because I am disabled.

Is there anything else you feel affects you regarding climate change?

Emotionally it is very taxing because I care about the environment a lot and it makes me concerned for the future.

How does it make you feel?

It's that feeling of powerlessness and watching people older than us in political arenas make decisions that affect us way beyond what their lifespan will be.

What specific issue do you worry about the most?

As a disabled person I worry about my plastic consumption because I need the convenience of pre-packaged goods. I do try where possible to get things not packaged in plastic, but being disabled means I am on a very small budget. All the alternatives packed in something more sustainable than plastic tend to cost a lot more so I can't always afford them.

Do you have any other worries about plastics?

I worry about micro-plastics too because they have to be stopped at source aka production therefore no choice I make can affect this.

Do you have a personal worry about micro plastics?

I would if I didn't take extra care to source bottles and re-usable containers without PPA. I always look for PPA free and nowadays there are more available, but again they are more expensive.

Do you think climate change may shorten your life?

I don't know if it will shorten my life but it will definitely shorten others in future generations.

What if anything would be your best suggestions for people with the political power to change things?

They are capable of making these choices and they need to stop being selfish and make the necessary changes happen. My perception is that they don't make these changes that are necessary because not doing so makes them more money.

In your opinion which is the most pressing climate issue today?

The use of AI because the data servers needed will use up all the water and energy supplies making it impossible to use only sustainable energy supplies, causing drought and famine eventually.

What is it about the use of AI that is most concerning?

A big worry right now is this trend on Linked In at the moment where business people are asking Chat Gpt to draw a caricature of them at work from what it knows about them. This sort of frivolous use is a massive waste of resources. If even half the business people in the world on Linked in join in this trend, and no doubt other trends of this nature that will follow, this is a huge use of data and storage space for no good reason.

How does it make you feel when people appear not to recognise the consequences of their actions like this?

Things like this cause me great anxiety as it seems we have great power being available to be used without any sense of responsibility. I don't really know why politicians bemoan the fact that younger people seem to have poor mental health these days when if they looked at their own behaviour they might see some reasons why this might be the case.

I can understand fully why you would feel this way. It has been most enlightening for me to hear how climate change affects so many aspects of your life. Thanks so much for your very insightful views; these will be very helpful in my character construction for writing projects from now on.

It was so helpful to hear the views of this 30 year old person as the world is changing so fast now that it is pertinent to remember that people in different age groups will possibly have points of view specific to how climate change affects them.

It is important that we listen and hear them.