

A letter to my sister.

You were born exactly 2 weeks ago. You were tiny and i just couldn't get a grip of how small a person can be. You had your mother's eyes and your dad's growl.

Since you came home i have been looking after you. I embraced you, calmed you, washed you. I did everything I could to make you feel safe and loved. You don't really understand anything right now. The world around you amazes you, but you cannot get a grip of what you are doing here.

Soon you will start realising many things about reality you will have hard time comprehending. For example, simple obviousnesses, such as the sun rising and setting every day or warm summer changing to rainy fall. Then you will realise more complex concepts - like gender or culture.

For now, your world limits to just 3 people - me, our mom and dad. But there are so many more people out there. Right now, there are about 7.7 billions of them. By the time you are 10, the number is going to increase by 1 billion. It's more people than this planet can fit. More than this planet can feed and give shelter to.

When I was ten, i heard the news about an earthquake in Haiti which consumed the lives of 300 000 people. I was sitting on my mother's lap , crying. She was trying to explain the reason why it happened to me, but failed. Not because she didn't try hard enough, but because it's not easy explaining such misery to anyone, especially a child. It was the first time in my life that I encountered such pain and misery. And first time i realized, that such tragedies happen everyday.

I hope you will be older when you realise what i did back then. I remember the shock and sadness i felt the following days. I still think of the Haitians who lost their lives during that earthquake and it fills me with grief.

When you turn 12, the humanity will reach a breaking point. After that time, no one will be able to undo climate changes visible today. If we don't reduce CO2 (carbon dioxide) emission by at least a half by the 2030, we will never be able to go back and save the climate, earth and humanity.

When you reach the age of 16, you will be the same age as Greta Thunberg is right now. A climate activist, determined to change the status quo in the political debate on her own. Today the youth strikes she initiated gather a million and a half of students all around the world.

I wish you strength, so you can be as confident as her.

By the time you turn 30, the world will be face inevitable changes. UN estimates that up to ¼ of a billion of people will be displaced by climate change impacts. Large groups of refugees will seek shelter in the country and city you call home. You will witness a refugee crisis no-one has ever seen before. But dear, it's not all. By 2050 the Amazon ecosystem will collapse, the Arctic will become ice-free in summer, and sea levels will rise. by 0.5 metre 1

But today, when you are 2 weeks old, we start TOMUN where people from many countries have gathered to discuss current global issues. We may be young, but we understand the need to be vocal.

I promise you, my dear, that during this conference I will lobby, with all my powers, to find solutions preventing these pessimistic scenarios to happen. And i sincerely hope the other participants will join me.

With love,

Your older sister Agata