



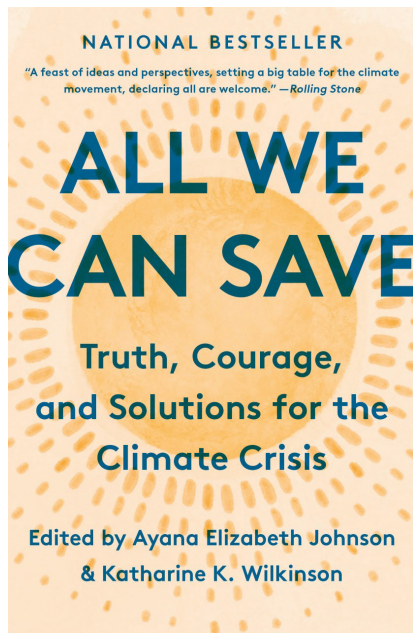
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DISCUSSION GUIDE



ALL WE CAN SAVE: TRUTH, COURAGE, AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson & Katharine K. Wilkinson



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EDITORS



Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson is a marine biologist, policy expert, writer, and Brooklyn native. She is founder of Urban Ocean Lab, a think tank for the future of coastal cities, co-host of the Spotify / Gimlet podcast *How to Save a Planet*, and co-creator of the *Blue New Deal*. Dr. Katharine K. Wilkinson is an author, strategist, teacher, and homegrown Atlantan, named one of 15 “women who will save the world” by *Time* magazine. Her writings include *The Drawdown Review*, the New York Times best-seller *Drawdown*, and *Between God & Green*.

Source: allwecansave.earth/contributors

SUMMARY

There is a renaissance blooming in the climate movement: leadership that is more characteristically feminine and more faithfully feminist, rooted in compassion, connection, creativity, and collaboration. While it’s clear that women and girls are vital voices and agents of change for this planet, they are too often missing from the proverbial “table.” More than a problem of bias, it’s a dynamic that sets us up for failure. To change everything, we need everyone.

Intermixing essays with poetry and art, this book is both a balm and a guide for knowing and holding what has been done to the world, while bolstering our resolve never to give up on each other or our collective future. We must summon truth, courage, and solutions, to turn away from the brink and toward life-giving possibility. Curated by two climate leaders, this book is a collection and celebration of visionaries who are leading us on a path toward all we can save.

Source: allwecansave.earth/anthology



ALL WE CAN SAVE CIRCLES

Caring about the climate crisis can be incredibly isolating. Polling tells us climate conversations are few and far between, yet we know folks are hungry for deeper, more generous dialogue on the topic and to circle up in ways that connect, nourish, and seed action.

All We Can Save Circles are designed to meet those needs, using the All We Can Save anthology as a grounding and jumping off point. This kind of work is vital to grow and strengthen any movement for social change.

Circles were created by Dr. Katharine Wilkinson.

You can find digital versions of these resources online at allwecansave.earth/circles

What is a Circle?

Each Circle is a self-organized small group committed to reading All We Can Save together over the course of 10 sessions. The aim is to foster meaningful conversation and allow every voice to be heard. A Circle can be as small as 3-4 people, but 6-10 people is probably the sweet spot. If you want to go bigger, do it! Your Circle is your oyster.

What does it mean to lead a Circle?

Circle leaders are the connective tissue. You'll invite friends, family, colleagues, and/or fellow good-troublemakers to be part of a Circle; coordinate when your Circle will meet; and lightly facilitate each session (more on that below). If leading solo seems daunting, invite someone to co-lead with you. If you'd rather not facilitate all 10 Circle sessions, you can rotate the facilitator role among your group. Check out allwecansave.earth/facilitation-guide for advice on how to facilitate your Circle.

How often do Circles meet?

All We Can Save is really rich. We suggest that Circles meet once a week over 10 weeks (for a more immersive experience) or once every other week over 20 weeks (to allow more time for reading and reflection). Each time you'll delve into one section of the anthology. You'll likely want 75-90 minutes together for each session, depending on the size of your group. These are just recs, so do what works best for your Circle!

DISCUSSION GUIDELINES & QUESTIONS

SESSION 1: BEGIN

Opening

Read Adrienne Rich quote that opens *All We Can Save*.

Introductions

Prompt: Share your name, pronouns + what made you say “yes” to this invitation. Then pass to someone else. (Circle leader should go first and model this.)

Agreements

Share these agreements for Circle dialogue. Then, welcome any questions / comments / suggested additions. Request affirmation from the group (verbal “yes” or thumbs up).

1. Generous Dialogue: We will ask open and generous questions, offer our own stories and ideas generously, and listen to one another with a generosity of spirit.
2. Equitable Dialogue: We will have a single conversation — one voice at a time, with roughly equal time to share. We will each step up or step back as needed.
3. Confidential Dialogue: We will ensure that sharings made within our Circle are not shared beyond it, unless someone gives clear permission to do so.
4. Growing Dialogue: We will lean into learning, welcome diverse opinions and perspectives, and support our mutual growth in knowledge and power.
5. Courageous Dialogue: We will bring our heads and hearts to this space, holding hard truths while looking towards what is possible and how we can best contribute.

Additional agreements for this Circle?

Discussion

Move through 3 generous questions, ensuring everyone has a chance to share:

1. Do you think of yourself as a climate feminist? If so, what does that identity mean to you? If not, how does it feel to try it on?
2. What are the qualities of feminine/ feminist climate leadership, and where do you see it emerging?
3. If “what we pay attention to grows,” what do you want to pay attention to and grow over these 10 sessions together?

Journal prompt

Offer the following Journal prompt, for those who may want to reflect and write between this session and the next one:

How did your climate journey begin?

Closing

Express gratitude. Remind group of next session date / time. Finally, read the prose poem summary of *All We Can Save* to close (p. xxii–xxiv).

Supplementary materials

For those who may wish to read / watch / listen further—now or down the road—we’ve curated a short list of supplementary materials for each section of the anthology. You can find these at allwecansave.earth/session-1



DISCUSSION GUIDELINES & QUESTIONS

SESSION 2: ROOT

Opening

Read 1 poem or quote from this section to open.

Check-in

Prompt: Share your name + 3 nouns that describe who you are. Then pass to someone else. (Circle leader should go first and model this.)

Agreements

Revisit the agreements, asking the group:

- How did we do with these in our first session?
- Are there any that need attention?

Discussion

Move through 3 generous questions, ensuring everyone has a chance to share:

1. Do you feel welcome in the climate movement? What, if anything, has kept you on the sidelines?
2. What foundational wisdom in this section feels vital for this time of transformation?
3. If we are at a crossroads of peril and promise, where do you see possibility alive and growing? (Note: If someone wants to explore peril as well as, or instead of, possibility, please don't uninvite it or dismiss any fears that may be shared.)

Journal prompt

Offer the following Journal prompt, for those who may want to reflect and write between this session and the next one:

What truths do you want to stay rooted in, as your climate journey continues to unfold?

Closing

Read 1 poem or quote from this section to close.

Supplementary materials

For those who may wish to read / watch / listen further—now or down the road—we've curated a short list of supplementary materials for each section of the anthology. You can find these at allwecansave.earth/session-2



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DISCUSSION GUIDELINES & QUESTIONS

SESSION 3: ADVOCATE

Opening

Read “To Be of Use” by Marge Piercy (p. 60).

Check-in

Prompt: Share your name + a body posture or movement that expresses your mood. Then pass to someone else. (Circle leader should go first and model this. Invite everyone to “echo” each body posture or movement.)

Discussion

Move through 3 generous questions, ensuring everyone has a chance to share:

1. How do you want to be of use in the climate movement/for a life-giving future?
2. What insights in this section challenge your thinking about what we need to or can do?
3. What do you see that’s working to foster more, deeper democracy?

Journal prompt

Offer the following Journal prompt, for those who may want to reflect and write between this session and the next one:

How does climate impact your civic / political participation?

Closing

1 poem or quote from this section to close.

Supplementary materials

For those who may wish to read / watch / listen further—now or down the road—we’ve curated a short list of supplementary materials for each section of the anthology. You can find these at allwecansave.earth/session-3



DISCUSSION GUIDELINES & QUESTIONS

SESSION 4: REFRAME

Opening

Read 1 poem or quote from this section to open.

Check-in

Prompt: Share your name + one word you associate with the climate crisis. Then pass to someone else. (Circle leader should go first and model this.)

Discussion

Move through 3 generous questions, ensuring everyone has a chance to share:

1. As you consider the climate crisis, what language / story do you want to leave behind or lean into?
2. What makes for generative conversations about climate, and what impedes them?
3. Are there particular culture-makers or culture-shapers we might invite into / collaborate with on climate work?

Journal prompt

Offer the following Journal prompt, for those who may want to reflect and write between this session and the next one:

Where might you spark / convene a fresh climate conversation?

Closing

1 poem or quote from this section to close.

Supplementary materials

For those who may wish to read / watch / listen further—now or down the road—we've curated a short list of supplementary materials for each section of the anthology. You can find these at allwecansave.earth/session-4



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DISCUSSION GUIDELINES & QUESTIONS

SESSION 5: RESHAPE

Opening

Read 1 poem or quote from this section to open.

Check-in

Prompt: Share your name + something you have mended. Then pass to someone else. (Circle leader should go first and model this.)

Agreements

This is a good time to bring back the agreements, asking the group::

- How are we doing on these?
- Are there any that need attention?

Discussion

Move through 3 generous questions, ensuring everyone has a chance to share:

1. What fact about the climate crisis do you find hard to face? What makes it so hard?
2. How is the climate crisis challenging the meaning of home? How might we redefine it?
3. Where do you see necessary and effective “reshaping” taking place (at any scale)?

Journal prompt

Offer the following Journal prompt, for those who may want to reflect and write between this session and the next one:

How does the place you call home need to be reshaped or transformed, given the climate crisis?

Closing

1 poem or quote from this section to close.

Supplementary materials

For those who may wish to read / watch / listen further—now or down the road—we’ve curated a short list of supplementary materials for each section of the anthology. You can find these at allwecansave.earth/session-5



DISCUSSION GUIDELINES & QUESTIONS

SESSION 6: PERSIST

Opening

Read 1 poem or quote from this section to open.

Check-in

Prompt: Share your name + a physical expression of what the word “persist” means to you. Then pass to someone else. (Circle leader should go first and model this. Invite everyone to “echo” each physical expression.)

Discussion

Move through 3 generous questions, ensuring everyone has a chance to share:

1. What do you find to be critical fuel for persistence? Where / how do you get it?
2. What content or insight in this section stoked fire in your belly?
3. What values do we need to bring into or nourish in this work? What values do we need to release or root out? What values do we need to recover from older / ancestral ways of knowing?

Journal prompt

Offer the following Journal prompt, for those who may want to reflect and write between this session and the next one:

What would you take on, if you knew you'd have the winds of persistence at your back?

Closing

1 poem or quote from this section to close.

Supplementary materials

For those who may wish to read / watch / listen further—now or down the road—we've curated a short list of supplementary materials for each section of the anthology. You can find these at

allwecansave.earth/session-6



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DISCUSSION GUIDELINES & QUESTIONS

SESSION 7: FEEL

Opening

Read 1 poem or quote from this section to open.

Check-in

Prompt: Share your name + your primary emotion regarding the climate crisis right now. Then pass to someone else. (Circle leader should go first and model this.)

Discussion

Move through 3 generous questions, ensuring everyone has a chance to share:

1. What in this section made you feel seen?
2. Has the climate crisis impacted your choices about or experiences of parenthood? How so?
3. What practices help you face our planetary emergency? How might we support one another in our inner climate work?

Journal prompt

Offer the following Journal prompt, for those who may want to reflect and write between this session and the next one:

Who makes you feel more climate courageous, and why?

Closing

1 poem or quote from this section to close.

Supplementary materials

For those who may wish to read / watch / listen further—now or down the road—we've curated a short list of supplementary materials for each section of the anthology. You can find these at allwecansave.earth/session-7

DISCUSSION GUIDELINES & QUESTIONS

SESSION 8: NOURISH

Opening

Read “Notes from a Climate Victory Garden” (p. 293) to open.

Check-in

Prompt: Share your name + a food that nourishes you. Then pass to someone else. (Circle leader should go first and model this.)

Discussion

Move through 3 generous questions, ensuring everyone has a chance to share:

1. Of the many “re-” words in Louise Maher-Johnson’s poem (Ayana’s mom!), is there one that reflects how you connect with Earth’s living systems? Why?
2. Which solution in this section captured your attention or imagination?
3. Where are you catching glimpses of a regenerative future, today?

Journal prompt

Offer the following Journal prompt, for those who may want to reflect and write between this session and the next one:

How would you define “climate victory”?

Closing

1 poem or quote from this section to close.

Supplementary materials

For those who may wish to read / watch / listen further—now or down the road—we’ve curated a short list of supplementary materials for each section of the anthology. You can find these at

allwecansave.earth/session-8



DISCUSSION GUIDELINES & QUESTIONS

SESSION 9: RISE

Opening

Read 1 poem or quote from this section to open.

Check-in

Prompt: Share your name + someone who inspires you to rise. Then pass to someone else. (Circle leader should go first and model this.)

Discussion

Move through 3 generous questions, ensuring everyone has a chance to share:

1. If you were to write a letter—a plea—about the climate crisis, to whom would you send it?
2. Can you imagine the community that will heal the climate crisis? Tell us about what you imagine...
3. How might we widen our circles of action?

Journal prompt

Offer the following Journal prompt, for those who may want to reflect and write between this session and the next one:

What additional knowledge / skills / experience could aid your rising?

Closing

1 poem or quote from this section to close.

Supplementary materials

For those who may wish to read / watch / listen further—now or down the road—we've curated a short list of supplementary materials for each section of the anthology. You can find these at allwecansave.earth/session-9



DISCUSSION GUIDELINES & QUESTIONS

SESSION 10: ONWARD

Opening

Read Rachel Carson quote (p. 373) to open.

Check-in

Prompt: Share your name + a body posture or movement that expresses vitality. Then pass to someone else. (Circle leader should go first and model this.)

Discussion

Move through 3 generous questions, ensuring everyone has a chance to share:

1. Thinking back through All We Can Save, have you glimpsed your future self in any of these writings?
2. Has anything in this book seeded new desires or plans for your participation in healing the climate crisis?
3. Where do we go from here? (See below for some “what next” ideas.)

Journal prompt

Offer the following Journal prompt, for those who may want to reflect and write on:

How do you define climate leadership now?

Closing

Prompt: Share one word that speaks to your Circle experience. Then pass to someone else.

Finally, read Adrienne Rich quote (p. 374) to close.

Circles Survey

Please share this 8-10 min survey with your Circle, so we can understand more deeply the experiences folks are having:

surveymonkey.com/r/AWCS-Circles

Supplementary materials

For those who may wish to read / watch / listen further—now or down the road—we’ve curated a short list of supplementary materials for each section of the anthology. You can find these at allwecansave.earth/session-10



AFTER YOUR CIRCLE

WHAT'S NEXT?

Sustain your Circle community

- Dig deeper by exploring these questions:
 - After these 10 sessions of connection, what ideas or viewpoints are we taking with us that we hadn't considered before? What shared concerns or hopes did we unearth in our discussions?
 - What remaining questions do we still have as a group? What else do we want to discuss or return to? Are there other people or groups we would like to hear from or engage with?
 - What could we do together, within our community / communities or beyond? What superpowers could we collectively leverage / combine?
- Create a Signal or WhatsApp group for ongoing communication
- Listen to the podcast episode "Is Your Carbon Footprint BS?" from *How To Save A Planet* and create + share your climate Venn diagrams
- Read *Sacred Instructions* together (3-4 sessions, using a similar facilitation flow)
- Read *The Drawdown Review* together (1-2 sessions, using a similar facilitation flow)
- Gather monthly for support, intentions, accountability, community, and collaboration
- Take on a collective project, leveraging the superpowers of your Circle
- Hold a "reunion" in 1-3 months time and / or in 6-12 months time

Grow the conversation

- Share the anthology
- Spark a climate conversation with someone new (check out Katharine Hayhoe's new book *Saving Us* for more support)
- Convene another Circle (perhaps in your workplace)
- Plan an event focused on themes from *All We Can Save*
- Create! Engage themes from the anthology or share your climate story through visual art, writing, or performance (check out Climate Story Labs for useful info and inspiration)



AFTER YOUR CIRCLE

WHAT'S NEXT?

Take collective action

- Support or join a climate group / project / campaign (see the appendix on p. 383-4 for organizations referenced by essayists)
- Support a climate champion running for office (for example, check out candidate endorsements from the League of Conservation Voters or Sunrise Movement)
- Get involved in voter registration / mobilization (for example, check out the Environmental Voter Project or Fair Fight)
- Move your money out of fossil fuels and into climate solutions (check out Marilyn Waite's list of resources)

Make it professional

- Deepen your knowledge / skills (check out Terra.do)
- Use your skills as a volunteer (check out Patagonia Action Works)
- Explore ways to bring climate into your current work / role (check out what others in your field are doing)
- Seek out new opportunities with greater climate focus (check out B Work, Climate Base, Climate Career Moves, Ed's Clean Energy & Sustainability Jobs List, IISD Climate Job Vacancies, Important Jobs)
- Join forthcoming programs from The All We Can Save Project, focused on finding your place in and ways to be of use on climate (stay tuned via our newsletter)

Source: allwecansave.earth/circles



REVIEWS

Kirkus

A welcome anthology, in prose and verse, of women’s writings on climate change. At the outset, marine biologist Johnson, founder of the Urban Ocean Lab, and teacher Wilkinson, vice president of Project Drawdown, write that the political and social constructs that oppress women are one and the same with those that are wreaking havoc on the global environment: “Dominance, supremacy, violence, extraction, egotism, greed, ruthless competition—these hallmarks of patriarchy fuel the climate crisis just as surely as they do inequality, colluding with racism along the way.” There’s no such zero-sum game-playing here. The editors observe that women are well equipped to transcend ego and competition in order to create a politics of “heart-centered, not just head-centered, leadership.” Many of the writings that follow celebrate Indigenous ways of knowing: Mexico-born Xiye Bastida, for example, invokes her Otomi-Toltec ancestors to advocate a “shift in culture and mindset.” She argues vigorously for intersectional activism and eschews any form of exclusive politics that further marginalizes the disenfranchised. Penobscot writer Sherri Mitchell emphasizes the importance of recognizing that “we are all inextricably linked” while Joy Harjo, the first Native poet laureate, raises a number of provocative questions for would-be political leaders—e.g., “Do you have authority by the original keepers of the lands, those who obey natural law and are in the service of the lands on which you stand?” If not, the leader has no business in the job. Some writers—Naomi Klein, say—are more grounded in scientific and political approaches, and poet Emily Johnston delivers a needed caution: We can work diligently and still not solve the monumental problems we face, but that is no excuse not to do it: “There is too much we need to heal, and we have to change the path that we’re on. We have beautiful work to do before we die.” Other contributors include Ada Limón, Kendra Pierre-Louis, Varshini Prakash, and Mary Oliver. A well-curated collection with many ideas for ways large and small to save the planet.



REVIEWS

Library Journal

/ Starred Review */* Published in the midst of a resurgence of young climate activists with strong voices such as Jamie Margolin and Greta Thunberg, who are fighting bold battles against systems they assert condone and perpetuate climate change, this work feels somewhat nostalgic for 1960s-style activism. Editors Johnson, a marine biologist, and author and teacher Wilkinson have highlighted statistics, included powerful quotations, and underlined the names of women who have played significant roles in the fight against climate change, making this work accessible to readers without much prior knowledge of women's climate-related work and a welcome text in college courses on environmentalism. Their introduction sets up key terminology and asks readers to contemplate ways in which environmentalism has been impacted by toxic masculinity while setting the stage for an examination that is intersectional in its attention to issues of race, class, and gender. While some contributions are stronger than others, the book overall provides space for women to explore the seriousness of climate change in essays, poems, and artwork, with a sense of urgency and beauty. VERDICT By grouping a range of women's voices, the editors have crafted a hopeful narrative, with many calls to action.



IF YOU LIKE THIS BOOK, YOU MAY ENJOY:

Dungy, Camille. *Trophic Cascade: Poems*. The Fort Collins poet writes about birth, death, and ecosystems of nature and power.

Harjo, Joy. *An American Sunrise: Poems*. In the early 1800s, the Mvskoke people were forcibly removed from their original lands east of the Mississippi to Indian Territory, which is now part of Oklahoma. Two hundred years later, U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo returns to her family's lands and opens a dialogue with history.

Klein, Naomi. *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate*. Posits that dealing with the climate crisis requires us to abandon the core “free market” ideology of our time, restructure the global economy, and remake our political systems.

Mitchell, Sherri. *Sacred Instructions: Indigenous Wisdom for Living Spirit-Based Change*. The author draws from Indigenous knowledge and ancestral wisdom, as well as her experience as a lawyer and activist, to address some of the most crucial issues we face today—including indigenous land rights, environmental justice, and our collective human survival.

Schwartz, Judith D. *The Reindeer Chronicles: and Other Inspiring Stories of Working with Nature to Heal the Earth*. A global tour of earth repair and some of the unsung heroes pushing the boundaries of ecological restoration to show how even the world's most wounded places can be revived.

Annotations courtesy of the publishers and the Boulder Library catalog.



AUTHOR INTERVIEW

How two women are changing the face of the climate change movement: Katharine Wilkinson and Ayana Elizabeth Johnson are leading a new wave of women leaders who are out to save the world

By Yi-Jin Yu | April 22, 2021

Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Dr. Katharine K. Wilkinson are on a mission to bring more women to the forefront of the climate change movement, a field that has long been dominated by white men. Last fall, the pair released an anthology they edited called “All We Can Save,” featuring essays from a varied group of experts with diverse perspectives.

“All We Can Save” has since attracted attention from outside the scientific community, and its audiobook is even voiced by Hollywood celebrities like Jane Fonda, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, America Ferrera and Sophia Bush. Here’s how they’re building a movement and why they say women are so necessary to the climate movement.

TMRW: Ayana, you wear many hats as a marine biologist, podcast host and writer. How did you get your start in the climate world?

Ayana Johnson: I like this version of the question, because I get asked all the time, like, “How did you become a marine biologist?” with just, you know, it’s the same answer as every other kid who thinks the ocean is really cool. But ... there’s no way to do ocean conservation work without realizing that it’s all happening in the context of the climate crisis. And so it was just a slow and steady expansion from trying to figure out what sustainable fishing looked like in Caribbean island nations to thinking about ocean policy at the U.S. federal level, and then realizing that there’s a limit to how much you can accomplish if you’re just thinking locally. That local work is still critical, of course, but I realized there was an opportunity to be one of the people who was helping to connect those dots between the imperatives for ocean conservation ... and being one of the people who’s raising her hand and saying, “Don’t forget about the ocean!” in every climate meeting.



AUTHOR INTERVIEW CONT.

Katharine, you're also an author, teacher and former editor-in-chief of Project Drawdown, a nonprofit coalition of researchers and scientists working on climate change solutions. How did you get your start in the climate world?

Katharine Wilkinson: I got sort of politicized around environmental issues broadly in high school and kind of carried that student activism into my undergraduate years. And I remember at some point ... I want to say, maybe my second year or so in college, I realized that if I wanted to work on environmental issues, that probably meant working on climate change. I learned a lot from a friend of mine in college, Billy Parish, who really got the youth climate movement going. He was kind of my entry point.

What brought you two together?

Wilkinson: Technically, we first met on Twitter. And, you know, I was like ...

Johnson: A very modern story.

Wilkinson: ...this woman seems extremely cool. And then a mutual friend, a colleague in the ocean climate overlap world, sent us an email and said, "You two need to meet." And we hopped on a phone call together. It's very 21st century... and that was late 2018. And there was sort of an unusual opportunity on the table to curate and lead a retreat at this incredible ranch in Montana. And I'd had this notion of, "Could we get a bunch of women in climate together for community and scheming and dreaming that's hard to do alone?" And Ayana, ... she was like, "Well, I am in and I will help you do that. Let's fire up a spreadsheet and get going."

You say on the All We Can Save website that it's very much a men's world. How did you find this community of women leaders who are ready to break down barriers?

Johnson: Katharine and I were looking around and seeing so much remarkable work happening. That women were leading in these creative ways, forming interesting collaborations, working outside of institutions and just sort of doing what needed to be done, often without nearly enough resources behind them. So when I met Katharine and saw her TED talk about exactly this — the need to include an eye to the gender as we work on addressing the climate crisis — I started to think about what that would mean. And once you start looking around and you notice the incredible work that's going on, that's being done by women that's either under appreciated, underfunded, under recognized, it just seems like such a waste not to figure out how to further bolster those efforts.



AUTHOR INTERVIEW CONT.

How would you describe the All We Can Save Project and its purpose?

Johnson: It's born out of ... this need for gender equality within climate work and the understanding that if we do not deliberately include women, especially women of color, not just as participants, but as leaders, then we won't succeed. We need the biggest, strongest team and we also just need so many more leaders. Katharine has described the climate crisis as a leadership crisis. And that's not just the lack of diversity in the leaders right now, but the fact that we need so many more leaders. We're talking about a moment of radical transformation that's needed in terms of our electricity and transportation and buildings and manufacturing and agriculture and land use and all of that, which means we need leaders in every community, in every sector, leading this transition. And so what we're trying to do is advocate for gender equality within climate work, and welcome as many people in as possible, and see if there are things we can do to help them find their place in this work.

Wilkinson: Elizabeth Yeampierre, who is a longtime climate justice activist and leader, talks about the need for a "leaderful" movement. And I love that I term, because I think it gives you that sense of abundance and a mosaic that we need in terms of climate leadership. I think about All We Can Save sometimes as a kaleidoscope, where you can sort of keep turning it right to see things slightly differently, to have kind of new insights and new openings. And I think a leaderful movement takes that power of a kaleidoscope and just makes it so much bigger.

Johnson: And that term is also used in the movement for Black Lives (Matter). And it's been, of course, remarkable to see how that principle of advocating for a leaderful approach has really played out in their work in these beautiful ways.

What's your response to challenges from doubters and climate change deniers?

Johnson: Well, I think it's important to keep in context that that's actually a very small percentage of people. It's larger in America and the U.S. than it is elsewhere, but there's only about 8% of Americans who are staunchly in denial about climate science, and another 12 or so percent who are dismissive of it. But that leaves nearly 80% of Americans who are concerned to some degree, and then the question becomes, OK, what do we do? And so, we're not in the business of having the the important and very difficult conversations to bring people on board with accepting the science of what's happening. Because we think that our efforts are best focused on the many millions of people who understand the magnitude of a challenge we're facing, and just haven't found a way to really fit in and be helpful in the way things need to move forward.

So I don't have fights on Twitter with climate deniers or anything.



AUTHOR INTERVIEW CONT.

What has been the response to All We Can Save?

Johnson: Katharine came up with this brilliant idea of putting together reading circles and developing this 10-week discussion guide that mirrors the 10 sections of the book. And, you know, our PR advisors were like, “You realize no one’s going to sign up for this. This is like an AP class; you’re asking too much of people.” And we’ve had over 500 people sign up to lead these circles, which means there are probably thousands of people in them having these discussions. And the first wave of folks have been through this 10-week cycle now. And it’s just been remarkable to see the feedback of people saying, “Oh, now I see where I can fit in,” or “My discussion circle is becoming an accountability circle or an action circle.” And so I think figuring out how the book can be a tool for gathering people is something that Katharine’s conception of circles has really kicked off in a beautiful way, where people can sort of run with it and use it however they need to.

Wilkinson: I got to teach this book in an undergraduate seminar last fall, right when it came out, and to see firsthand the impact that it had on this group of students in terms of their going, “Oh, climate is not just about science and engineering and policy, it’s also about storytelling and journalism and psychology and food,” and kind of the way that it opened up their sense of footholds for contributing and participating. And I will never forget one of my students saying, “I was shaking while I was reading it, because I felt so empowered.” And I think that’s really the bottom line. We want folks to feel like they can and are bringing their superpowers to this work.

So much of our work together has been kind of sensing and reading what’s happening. And putting our heads together on, “How can we help? How can we contribute and sort of following the openings that present themselves?” And I think that’s going to continue to be true, because we’re in this incredibly liminal time of transformation. And there’s a lot that we don’t know just yet and there’s a lot that we’re just beginning to glimpse over the horizon.

Source: [today.com/tmrw/how-2-women-are-changing-face-climate-change-movement-t215878](https://www.today.com/tmrw/how-2-women-are-changing-face-climate-change-movement-t215878)