

COOL KIDS

Precociously SAVING THE WORLD

They chose a cause and fight for it tooth and nail. Little by little, they've been able to make a difference. And while there's still a lot to do, the truth is, a lot of minds have been changed.

These kids are proof that age is no barrier to accomplishing your goals. Much less to changing the course of history.

By Adriana Santos

Illustration Bruna Romero @brunafrog

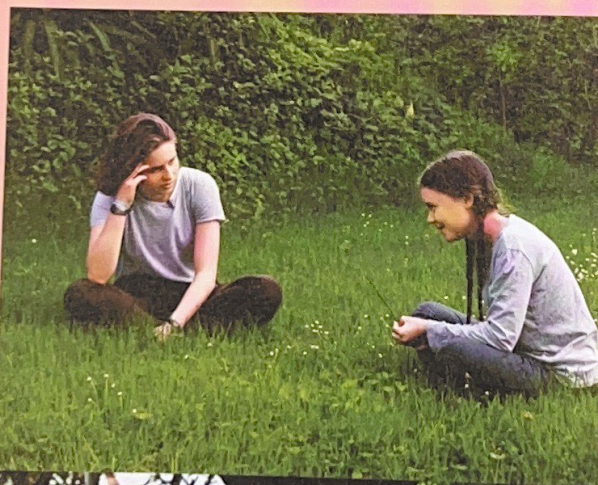
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MARLEY DIAS @iammarleydias

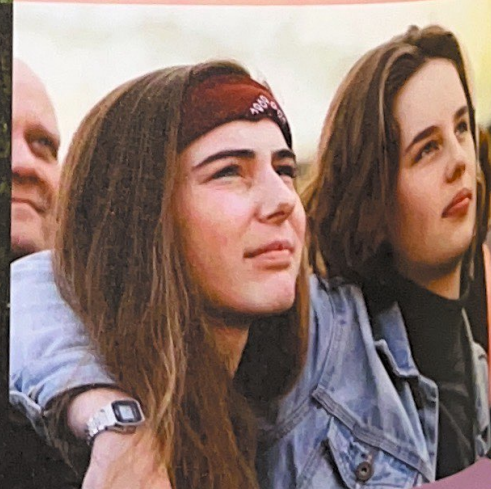
Marley Dias was born in the United States and is black. At the age of ten, after reading a schoolbook with a white protagonist, she realised that most stories were not written to inspire girls like her. That's why, in November 2015, she inaugurated the #1000blackgirlsbooks movement, which aimed to collect and donate children's books with coloured girls as their main character. In this way, Marley hoped to motivate girls to achieve their dreams, regardless of their skin colour or background.

The hashtag quickly took off and she was able to collect over 12,000 books. In recent years, Marley, now 14, has had the opportunity to organise a reading party at the White House, to share a stage with Oprah Winfrey and even to write a biographical book: *Marley Dias Gets It Done: And So Can You!*, published in 2018.



ANUNA DE WEVER @anuna_dewever

Anuna De Wever is 18 years old and it was in her native Belgium that she started fighting for the cause against climate change. Last year, realising she could not vote in the Belgian and European elections, she decided she had to do something for the world. She began to organise school strikes against climate change, bringing together tens of thousands of Belgian students on several occasions. She continues to fight for the cause and, alongside Greta Thunberg, has managed to take the strikes worldwide.





GRETA THUNBERG

@gretathunberg

She has spoken up in all media in the fight against climate change and was even named Person of the Year 2019 by Time magazine.

In 2018, at the age of 15, this young woman from Sweden began to skip classes to protest in front of her country's parliament against greenhouse gas emissions. Her raw, impassioned appeals won her the attention of the whole world.

In September last year, Greta delivered one of the most striking speeches at the UN climate summit: "This is all wrong. I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you! You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words."



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ISRA HIRSI @israhirsi

The first time Isra Hirsi took part in a protest she was only six years old. Today, at 17, she is still fighting for her causes. As an African-American and Muslim, she formed part of the Black Lives Matter movement when she was still in primary school. In high school, she began to pay attention to the issue of gun control. Just two years ago Isra took up the cause of climate change, realising that those who suffered from it most were people of colour, a fact which receives scant attention. She is still fighting for this cause to this day. In January last year, she co-founded the U.S. Youth Climate Strike that inspired more than a million and a half students from 120 countries to strike against climate change. You could say her drive to make a difference runs in the family. The teenager is the eldest daughter of U.S. Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, who has made quite a stir as the first Muslim and Somali American to join the United States Congress.



ZURIEL ODUWOLE @zuriel.oduwole

In the summer of 2013, Zuriel Oduwole, then aged ten, was the youngest person in the world to feature in Forbes Magazine. Less than a year later, New York Business Insider considered her the most powerful 11-year-old girl on the planet. Since then, the story of Zuriel, now 16, has been told in various media. Why? Because this teenage girl fights for the education of girls all over the planet. Zuriel goes to schools and shows the youth how important their studies are. So far, this work has led her to speak to over 25,000 young people in more than 15 countries. In addition, Zuriel is a film producer, having made her first documentary at the age of nine.

