**INSPIRATIONBASE**

*A collection of ethical leadership speeches*

Bernie

Sanders



Bernie Sanders has been a U.S. senator for Vermont since 2007. From 1991 - 2007 he served in the U.S. House of Representatives, which made him “the longest serving independent member of Congress in American history.” He ran for president in both 2016 and 2020. He is known for speaking out again inequalities and injustice. He focuses on shrinking the American middle class and the growing gaps in income and wealth. He also believes in health insurance and education for all. He is further known for demanding drastic policies to fight climate change and to protect the environment. Source: link official website ([link](https://www.sanders.senate.gov/about-bernie/))

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| **BS 1*. Senator Bernie Sanders Has Bad News About Climate Change*** | | | |  |
| […] What the scientists are telling us is, in fact, they have underestimated the severity and the speed in which climate change is damaging not only our country but the entire world. And if we do not act boldly, and I got to tell you, we have introduced the most comprehensive climate-change proposal ever introduced by a candidate for federal office. If we don’t have the guts to take on the fossil fuel industry and tell them that their short-term profits are not more important than the future of this planet, then I got to tell you, according to the scientists, the world that we’re gonna be leaving our kids and our grandchildren is gonna be increasingly unhealthy and uninhabitable, and I think we have a moral responsibility to make sure that does not happen.  […] And, you know, as a parent and as a grandparent, and I just don’t want any parent or grandparent to have to be in a position where twenty or thirty years ago, little ones or your kids are asking you, “Didn’t you know what was going on? Didn’t you know what climate change was doing? Why didn’t you do something about it when you knew about it?” I don’t want any of us to be in that position. We’re talking about rising sea levels which will inundate major cities in our own country and around the world before the end of the century. We’re talking about more drought. We’re talking about more extreme weather disturbances. We’re talking, Jimmy, about the United Nations telling us that hundreds of millions of people will be climate refugees. They’re gonna be forced to leave the land that they’re on now because there is no drinking water, there is no land to grow crops, and they’re going to have to go elsewhere, causing incredible national security issues and wars all over the world. So this is a very, very major crisis, and as president, you know, what I will try to do is to not only transform our own energy system but lead the world, because this is a global crisis, and maybe say to countries all over the world that instead of spending $1.8 trillion on weapons of destruction designed to kill each other, maybe we should pool our resources and fight against our common enemy, which is climate change. | | | | |
| **Date** | 27/11/19  Accessed 12 Mar. 2021 | **Source** | The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, available on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDWAEKQ0KkU>), min. 0:21 - 1:10, 1:31 - 3:02; close captioning available. | |

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| **BS 2*. The Climate Crisis Is An Existential Threat*** | | | |  |
| All over this country, people wake up in the morning and they’re shaking their heads and they say, what is going on in our country? We are looking at a pandemic which has now taken over 190,000 lives. We’re looking at an economic meltdown which has cost us tens of millions of jobs. People are struggling to put food on the table. They’re worried about getting evicted. They don’t have any health care. They’re wondering how they’re going to survive tomorrow. We’re looking at a situation where systemic racism reigns throughout this country, police brutality and a need for real police and criminal justice reform. And then on top of all of that, turn on the TV and you see the West Coast of the United States, some of the most beautiful land in our country, burning. Hundreds of thousands of acres are burning because of unprecedented climate change and the warming of the planet. Now there are people out there in Washington, my colleagues in the Senate, they say the Green New Deal is too expensive. We can’t afford it. Well, you tell me the alternative. Tell me the alternative if we’re going to be looking at a planet which is burning up, if we’re looking at more and more droughts and the decline of food production, if you’re looking at more and more extreme weather disturbances, hurricanes, and tornadoes, if you’re looking at more and more disease, if you’re looking at more and more mass migrations of people around the world who can no longer stay in their communities because there’s no water, or there is no food. Climate change is the existential threat to our planet. And we are seeing it with our own eyes right now. We’re seeing it in California and Oregon. We’re seeing it in the state of Washington. Last year, we saw it in Australia. We see it in heat waves in Europe. We need to take on the fossil fuel industry. We need to have the courage to tell the oil companies and the gas companies and the coal companies that their short-term profits are not more important than the future of this planet. We need the moral clarity to make it clear that we have the responsibility to make sure that our children and grandchildren and future generations have a planet that is healthy and is habitable, nothing more basic than that. So today, our hearts go out to the suffering on the West Coast, the loss of life, the loss of homes by the hundreds. Let us keep our eyes focused on the need to transform out energy system away from fossil fuel. And yes, the Green New Deal is not too expensive because the alternative is far, far more dreadful, more destructive, and much more expensive. Thank you. | | | | |
| **Date** | 14/9/20  Accessed 12 Mar. 2021 | **Source** | Bernie Sanders on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGBuBcauZEA>); video includes close captioning | |

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| **BS 3*. Sanders on Biden climate change policy: Nowhere near enough*** | | | |  |
| We started this debate talking about a war-like situation in terms of the coronavirus, and we said we have to act accordingly. You [Biden] said it, I think you’re right, I said it, we have to act dramatically, boldly if we’re gonna save lives in this country and around the world. I look at climate change in exactly the same way. It’s not a question of re-entering the Paris Accord, that’s fine, who cares, it’s not a big deal. The deal right now is: do we have the courage - and this gets back to the point I’m trying to make all night long - do we take on the health care industry and tell them their profits are not more important than health care for all? Do we take on the fossil fuel industry? Look, in terms of the fossil fuel industry, these guys have been lying. They have been lying for years like the tobacco industry lied fifty years ago. “Oh, we don’t know if fossil fuels, if oil and carbon emissions are causing climate change.” They knew. ExxonMobile knew. They lied. In fact, I think they should be held criminally accountable. But this, Jake [Tapper], is an issue of enormous consequences. What Joe was saying goes nowhere near enough. It’s not a question of money. Give me a minute here. We have to talk about this. This is a world-shaking event.  […] Obviously, the Paris Accord is useful. But it doesn’t go anywhere… If you are laughing, Joe, you are missing the point. This is an existential crisis. I’m talking about stopping fracking as soon as we possibly can. I’m talking about telling the fossil fuel industry that they are gonna stop destroying this planet. No ifs, buts, and maybes about it.  […] You [Biden] are talking about making countries around the world fulfill their commitments. Those commitments are not enough. What this moment is about, Joe, is that the scientists are telling us they underestimated the severity of the crisis. They were wrong. The problem is more severe. So all that I’m saying right here is that we are fighting for the future of this planet, for the wellbeing of our kids and future generations. You cannot continue - as I understand Joe believes - continue fracking. Correct me if I’m wrong. What we need to do right now is bring the world together, tell the fossil fuel industry that we are gonna move aggressively to wind, solar, sustainable energies, and energy efficiency. | | | | |
| **Date** | 15/3/20  Accessed 13 Mar. 2021 | **Source** | CNN on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aW7LPlp0-q4>), min. 4:38 - 5:59, 6:58 - 7:21, 8:52 - 9:40 | |

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| BS 4. *S.C. 2020: Sen. Bernie Sanders Climate Change Town Hall Myrtle Beach* | | | |  |
| And when we talk about greed, it’s not only the greed of Wall Street and the insurance companies and the drug companies. There’s one area where the greed is almost unimaginable. Right now, the debate is over in terms of climate change. Scientists have told us loudly and clearly that climate change is real, it is caused by human activity, it is already doing devastating harm in our country and around the world.  […] Because what the scientists have told us is that if we do not act boldly and aggressively, we will see more floods in the United States and around the world, we will see more droughts, more rising sea levels, more extreme weather disturbances, more acidification of the oceans, more famine, more disease, and more human suffering. We have a moral obligation to make certain that the planet we leave our kids and our grandchildren is a planet that is healthy and is habitable. Now, my critics say, Bernie, the plan you released to combat climate change - which, by the way, is the most comprehensive plan ever released by anybody -, they say that that plan is expensive, and I say, “You’re right. It is expensive.” But I also say that the cost of doing nothing will be far, far more expensive. The economists have told us that the cost of inaction on climate change will cause some $69 trillion throughout the globe. The scientists have told us that the cost of inaction on climate will put the entire planet and life as we know it on Earth in serious jeopardy. Because what we have been told is that if we do nothing, the effects of climate change will lead to the deaths of hundreds and hundreds of thousands of innocent men, women, and children across the globe every single year from factors such as malnutrition, heat stress, malaria, and other diseases. If we do nothing, which is the president’s [Trump] prescription for this crisis, if we do nothing, what we have been told is that the effects of climate change will throw over a hundred million people throughout the world into extreme poverty. People will not have land to till their crops, they will not have drinking water to stay alive if we do nothing. The World Bank has told us that the effects of climate change could result in the mass migration and displacement of more than a hundred and forty million people throughout the world by 2050. What that means is when people don’t have food, they don’t have water, they’re gonna pick up, they’re gonna leave, they’re gonna go into somebody else’s area. And when that happens, what the Department of Defense and the other intelligence agencies tell us, that is a recipe for international crisis. According to a recent report, half a billion people throughout the world already live in places that are turning into deserts where the soil is being lost up to a hundred times faster than it is forming. If we do nothing, the CIA and the other intelligence agencies have warned us that the effect of heat waves, droughts, and floods substantially increase the risk of war.  […] We have a choice right now, and that is we can listen to the ignorance of Donald Trump and his supporters who tell us that climate change is not real, or maybe if it is real, there’s nothing we can or should do about it. That is one of the options. We can look at another option where people say, “Well, yeah, climate change is real, I know that, but, you know, I just don’t think we can afford to really invest in combating climate change in doing what has to be done.” Or thirdly, as we are doing, we listen to the scientists and do what has to be done in order to save this planet for future generations. | | | | |
| **Date** | 29/8/19  Accessed 13 Mar. 2021 | **Source** | SouthCarolinaETV on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTp2cZA5wEs>), min. 14:24 - 14:59, 16:02 - 20:04, 26:04 - 26:54; close captioning available | |

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