

20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

# RECLAIMING OUR DEMOCRACY



*Healing the break between  
people and government*

**SAM DALEY-HARRIS**

*Founder of RESULTS*

Foreword by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Muhammad Yunus  
New chapter on Citizens Climate Lobby

*We stand by as children starve by the millions because we lack the will to eliminate hunger. Yet we have found the will to develop missiles capable of flying over the polar cap and landing within a few hundred feet of their target. This is not innovation. It is a proud distortion of humanity's purpose on earth.*

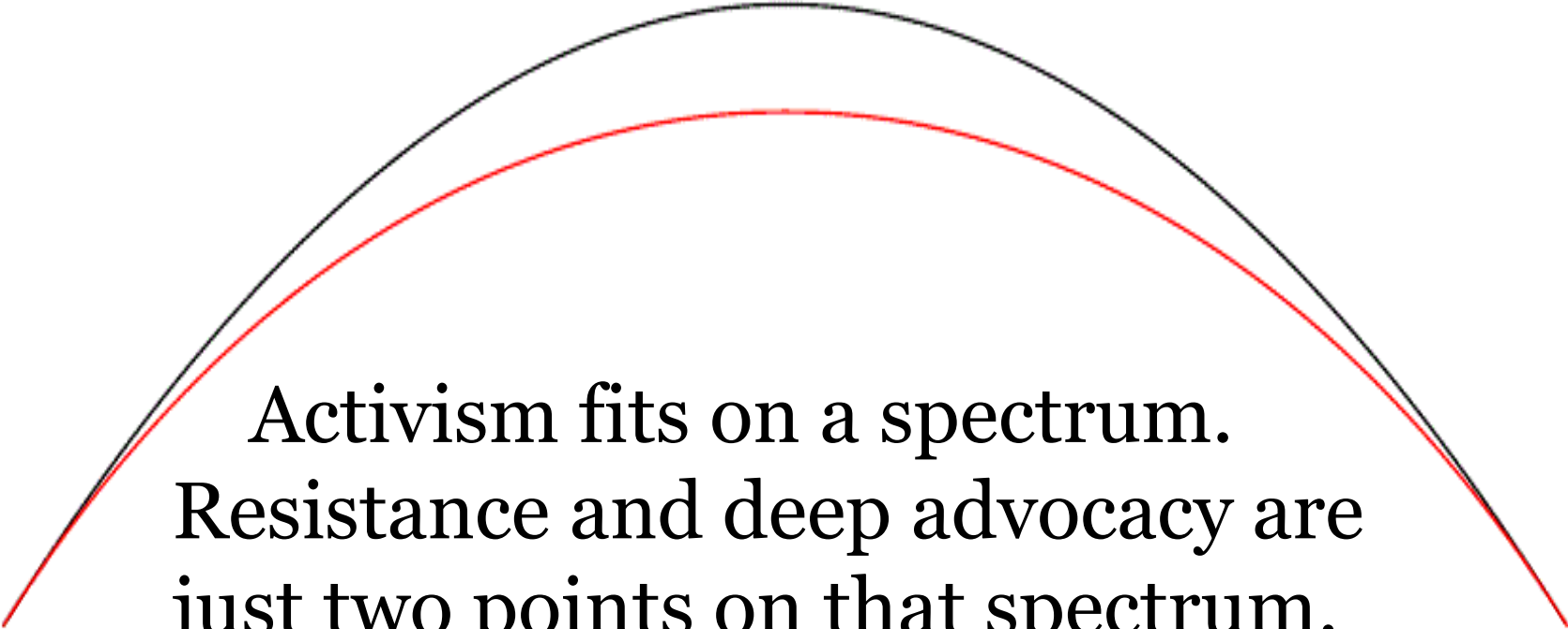
**Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-OR)**



**Thank you**

**Unite for Sight**





Activism fits on a spectrum.  
Resistance and deep advocacy are  
just two points on that spectrum.



My talk will focus on one aspect of the advocacy spectrum, deep, relationship-building advocacy. The resistance movement is just as important and just another point on the spectrum.

I want my talk to inspire, give you clarity on your activism (or lack of activism) and insight into one point on the spectrum.



Are Shouting and Silence Our Only Two  
Options:

Bringing Bipartisanship and  
Transformation to Citizen Activism



# My Main Messages:

1. You can make a profound difference on big issues with your voice as a citizen
2. You probably won't because of your sense of powerlessness and resignation about politics.
3. Find an organization committed to dissolving the powerlessness and you can make that profound difference.



My story: from hopelessness to action.

--

Here is an example of making a profound difference over a 34 year period on one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) starting 31 years before there were SDGs.





In a *New York Times* interview in 2013 former UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Kul Gautam said:

*To a great extent, it was because of the receptivity created by RESULTS that the U.S. funding for child survival increased so dramatically. And that led many other countries to come on board.*



Account	FY '17 Enacted	FY '18 Pres. Request	FY '18 Enacted
<b>Maternal and Child Health</b>	\$814.5 mil.	\$749.6 million 8% cut	\$829.5 mil. 2% increase
<b>Nutrition</b>	\$125 mil.	\$78.5 million 37% cut	\$125 million 0% cut
<b>Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria</b>	\$1.35 billion	\$1.25 billion 7% cut	\$1.35 billion 0% cut
<b>Tuberculosis</b>	\$241 million	\$178.4 million 26% cut	\$261 million 8% increase



If our voices as citizens can make a profound difference on the big issues, why don't more of us get involved?

That leads to our predicament:

Our Powerlessness



*....Our real problem is not a heating planet or rampant malnutrition....We only have one real problem: our own feelings of powerlessness to manifest the solutions right in front of our noses.*

**Frances Moore Lappé**  
***Getting a Grip***<sup>2</sup>

[That's the gift of the groups I coach: their deep commitment to dissolving the powerlessness.]



Again, if our voices as citizens  
can make such a profound difference on the big  
issues,

Why don't more of us get involved?

Our resignation.



# **Lawrence Lessig, Harvard Professor**

*We did a poll and found that 96% of Americans believe it important to reduce the influence of money in politics. But 91% don't think it's possible. That's the politics of resignation.*



*But the politics of resignation gives you a perfect strategy for winning...**how do we thaw that resignation** because once we do, then I think we have a real chance of winning.*

[Again, that's the gift of the groups I work with, their deep commitment to thawing the resignation.]



Here's a common view of most groups doing advocacy work, groups that aren't really up for thawing the resignation:

*We can't let our volunteers write letters to the editor or op-eds because they'll get it wrong and misrepresent the organization....*





Another common view of most groups doing advocacy work, groups that aren't really up for thawing the resignation:

*We don't have to practice because we aren't going on the road to launch the chapters. The chapters will study the template on the website and lead their first meeting on their own....*



# Citizens Climate Lobby

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2017</b>
Number of groups	14	397
Letters/op-eds pub.	65	4,093
Congress/staff mtgs.	106	1,653
Conf. attendance	25	1,300

CCL volunteers have enrolled 36 Republicans and 36 Democrats in joining the House Climate Solutions Caucus



**How does it work?** If volunteers raise their hand at a launch meeting and say “I’m in!” In what? What have the volunteers and the organization promised to each other? How powerful is the structure of support?

**One component:** A monthly conference call, guest speaker, Q&A, sharing grassroots victories, training, monthly Action Sheet.



# **How else does it work?**

## **The Champion Scale**

It's critical to move a member of Congress up the Champion Scale from opposed to neutral to supporter to advocate to leader to champion.



Last year I wrote about an earlier version of this talk and a friend wrote back saying she was stuck. She didn't know what to do or where to start. I replied:

*The trick is to get away from feeling wildly ineffective on 10 different issues to the point where you feel profoundly effective on one and trust*



*that others are getting to their one.  
You can click away on the other 9, but  
you're still feeling profoundly  
effective on one issue.*

The challenge is finding an organization that can empower you to feel profoundly effective on one. That is what the groups I coach are committed to doing.



# Organizations Committed to Dissolving the Powerlessness

- \_\_\_ Ending poverty (**RESULTS**)
- \_\_\_ Reversing climate change (**CCL**)
- \_\_\_ Preventing nuclear war (**FCNL**)
- \_\_\_ Money out of politics (**Am. Promise**)
- \_\_\_ Being energy aware (**Generation 180**)



**Frank Rich in a *NY Times* column from November 2007 wrote**

*...Last weekend a new...poll found that...only 24 percent of Americans believe their country is on the right track. [Seventy-four percent told pollsters the country was on the wrong track.]....*





*Wrong track is a euphemism. We are  
a people in clinical depression.  
Americans know that the ideals that  
once set our nation apart from the  
world have been vandalized.*



Most non-profit organizations don't acknowledge the toxicity into which they send their volunteer advocates. Consequently, they don't create a powerful enough structure of support that can be the antidote to that toxicity. It's now time to *totally* trust our volunteers. It's now time to give them the tools that provide them the confidence to speak and lead for a better world.

**Sam Daley-Harris**



One aspect of the Civic Courage process is a spiritual approach to politics—a politics of love.

One Citizens Climate Lobby volunteer called her meetings with 20 Congressional offices “sacred and profound.”



***E & E News*** (September 2017):  
Tom Moyer, a CCL volunteer who works with Rep. Mia Love (R-UT) said it's impossible to convince anyone of anything if you fundamentally don't like them. "If you walk in thinking they're an idiot and evil, you're done from the start, it doesn't matter how logical your position is," he said. "You have to put yourself in a place where you can find something to respect [in them]."



Again, one aspect of the Civic Courage process is a spiritual approach to politics—a politics of love.



You might have a low opinion of your Member of Congress, but you have to decide whether your goal is to be right about that or to be effective in causing a transformation. It's really up to you, but we will never get climate change reversed, poverty eliminated, Citizens United overturned, or nuclear war prevented with Democrats only or Republicans only—it has to be a bipartisan, trans-partisan effort.



**One way I've grown in the past year in my FCNL Advocacy Team work is:**

- 1) My heart is more tender, loving, and hopeful than it has been in many years, not just the last.
- 2) Becoming more aware that I am not alone in this endeavor to save the world. That we are connected as a team and as an organization. Thank you for taking this weight off my shoulders and I will try to carry my share.

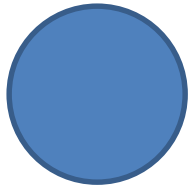


# Organizations Committed to Dissolving the Powerlessness

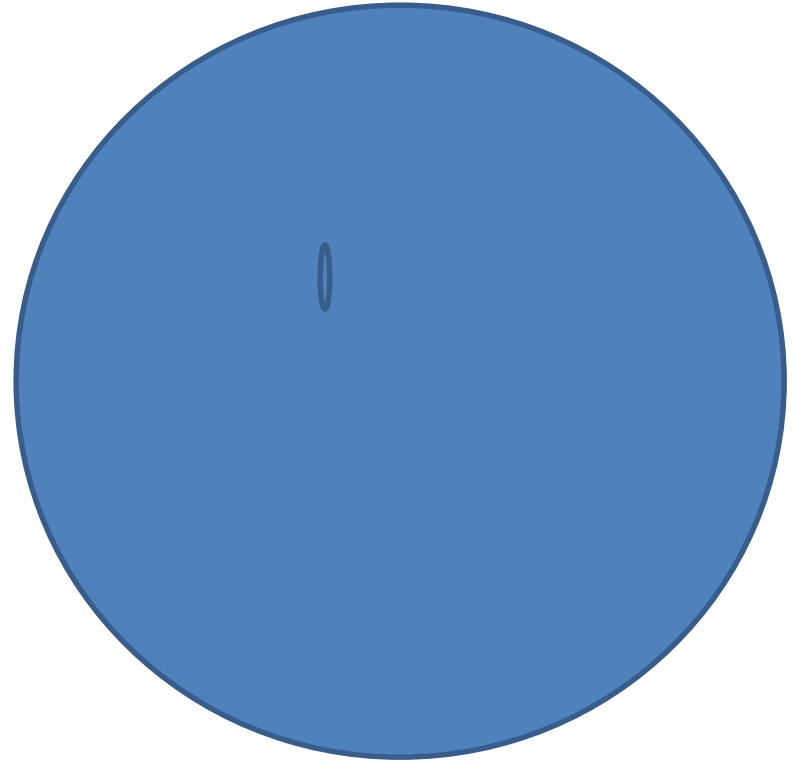
- \_\_\_ Ending poverty (**RESULTS**)
- \_\_\_ Reversing climate change (**CCL**)
- \_\_\_ Preventing nuclear war (**FCNL**)
- \_\_\_ Money out of politics (**Am. Promise**)
- \_\_\_ Being energy aware (**Generation 180**)







Your comfort zone



Where the magic happens



*This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one, the being a force of nature, instead of a selfish, feverish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me, it is a sort of splendid torch which I've got a hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.*

**Man and Superman, George Bernard Shaw**

20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

# RECLAIMING OUR DEMOCRACY



*Healing the break between  
people and government*

**SAM DALEY-HARRIS**

*Founder of RESULTS*

Foreword by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Muhammad Yunus  
New chapter on Citizens Climate Lobby