

Dear friends, colleagues, actors, directors, composers, singers etc.,

After reading the newspapers one weekend recently I was left with a feeling of powerlessness about the intensity and complexity of everything that's happening in the world. And as usual the question arose in me: yes but, what can I do about it?

This time a loud and clear answer came to me: You're a writer, so write!

I realised that I always *think* that I can't do anything, but the reality is that I actually hadn't yet tried to do anything. I picked up my pen and started to write. The result is the attached text.

I gave it to my friend Anne van Delft, a storyteller, to read and asked her what she thought of it, and she said: I'd really like to do it, is that possible? Of course it's possible. What's more, we had the feeling that there might be more people out there who want to do something, but don't know what. That's why I'm sending you this text (translated by Rina Vergano)

Read it, present it, perform it, set it to music, sing it, pass it on, in short, do anything you like with it. I have only one request: please leave the text intact, as it is.

In the spirit of a new sound, and in order to inspire a different movement. Perhaps we can do more than we think we can.

From the bottom of my heart,

Heleen Verburg

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PS. Please let me know if you're planning to do something with it. If you like you can post your contribution on youtube under the name of 'The power of gentleness'.