



**F r e i e H a n s e s t a d t B r e m e n**

**Rede der Preisträgerin des  
18. Bremer Solidaritätspreises**

**Hamira Kobusingye**

**am 9. Oktober 2023**



Dear Sustainability Enthusiasts,

It is a profound honor to stand before you today as the recipient of the 18th Bremen Solidarity Prize for Global Climate Justice. I am deeply humbled to be recognized among the remarkable individuals and initiatives dedicated to upholding human rights, democracy, and combating the far-reaching consequences of climate injustice, colonialism and racism.

From the earliest moments of our lives, many of us have faced constraints imposed by the climate crisis and by society's expectations based on gender, race, and cultural backgrounds. These constraints often hold us back from realizing our fullest potential. As a woman, I have felt the weight of such limitations, just as I have experienced the persistent climate change impacts and escalated by racism that permeates our world. These are struggles that resonate with many, and we must continue our collective efforts to overcome them.

Our planet faces an existential threat from climate change. It is a crisis that knows no borders and spares no community. The impacts of climate change, from loss of biodiversity to resource conflicts, are felt globally. However, the burden of its consequences falls disproportionately on those least responsible for its causes. For too long, our world has operated on a narrative that dismisses the challenges faced by Africa and other marginalized regions. The urgency of climate action is universal, and the time for change is now.

However, amidst these challenges, there is hope. Hope comes in the form of individuals and initiatives who stand up against these injustices, who innovate and create solutions, and who bring about tangible change at the grassroots level. The recognition of global climate justice is a testament to the imperative of addressing the impacts of climate change fairly and equitably. It signifies a commitment to healing the wounds of neocolonialism and capitalism that continue to plague our world.



As we work to address the climate crisis, we must acknowledge that true solutions require more than mere tokenism. We need tailored strategies that empower communities and individuals to lead sustainable, self-determined lives, considering the fact that these communities have been adapting to the impacts of a crisis they know nothing about and are vulnerable to various ramifications, loss and damage, food insecurity, climate induced conflict among others. We need to reject the notion that some lives matter less than others, and we must confront the harsh realities of displacement, eroded cultures, and environmental degradation caused by unchecked polluters.

The path forward demands unity, cooperation, and a shared understanding that no one is immune to the impacts of climate change and In order to ensure that the principles of justice, equity, and sincere collaboration serve as the foundation for our efforts to combat climate change, we must close the gap between rhetoric and action. Only then can we truly achieve a sustainable future for all.

I am grateful to the Senate of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen for their commitment to recognizing those who champion global climate justice. This award is not just a recognition of my efforts but a testament to the collective power of individuals and communities working tirelessly for a better world.

Let us continue to rise above constraints, dispel the shadows of injustice, and forge a future where climate justice prevails. Thank you.

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