

The best of **Winnie's** **visit**



Oxfam International's executive director Winnie Byanyima, came to visit our country for the first time in June.

Before Oxfam, Winnie served in the Ugandan Parliament, was the Director of Gender and Development at the UNDP, served at the African Union Commission and chaired a UN-wide task force on gender and the Millennium Development Goals, and also on climate change.

While Winnie was here she spoke on everything from the huge number of displaced people around the world, the broken economic system and dangerous political power, to the unprecedented four famines across Africa and in Yemen, the US withdrawal from the Paris Accord and climate change.

Here's a collection of the top five things Winnie said on these important topics while here in New Zealand.

On the US withdrawal from the Paris Accord and climate change

"I think this American decision on the Paris Agreement is a real opportunity for the rest of the world to be angry and, therefore, more ambitious about tackling climate change... I'm seeing an opportunity to re-mobilise. And I think, New Zealand, you should lead. This is a region that's facing the consequences right now."

An evening with Winnie Byanyima, Q Theatre event

"This is a story that New Zealanders and people in the Pacific understand so well because you're already facing it."

"Everywhere I hear the stories of people who are being wiped out by cyclones, by hurricanes – you're at the forefront of this and you need to lead the world to demand that rich countries put down climate financing to help those who have not caused it, but who are facing the consequences."

Interview with Kim Hill, Radio New Zealand

"My uncle in my village in Uganda, who's just a herdsman,

would take 180 years to emit the same carbon [dioxide] emissions as an ordinary American citizen would in one year. It's not fair for them to walk away."

Interview with Kim Hill, Radio New Zealand

"This is the greatness that's in humanity. What we are seeing today is that actually the poor countries, the developing countries, are showing more leadership on climate change than the rich countries who have the means to solve the problem and who caused the problem."

On the refugee crisis

"Today my country, Uganda, a very poor country, has more than a million South Sudanese refugees."

"We open our doors and we say 'come and share what we have, we are poor, but we can't let you die'."

"That is the principle of humanity, of humanitarianism, that all these countries signed on in the United Nations and are now turning their backs on ... these are not people just escaping to look for a better future, they're fleeing for their lives."

Interview with Corin Dann, TVNZ's Q & A

Before visiting us, Winnie Byanyima visited Nigeria and South Sudan – two nations that are facing extreme, widespread hunger due to ongoing conflict.

Winnie saw first-hand how the crises are affecting those most vulnerable to it. Although a massive response and injection of aid is urgently required, there's hope, she says.

"We've seen communities sharing what little they have with others in greater need. We've been greeted with warmth and gratitude by people who have been through so much, and have so little... "In these past few days, in the midst of such suffering, we've had cause for hope." **WNZ**

- Read up on what Winnie said regarding the world's broken economic system and the unprecedented four famines at oxfam.org.nz/blogs.

