



## ***Introducing globalisation's very first 'agony aunt'!***

***This week, Agony Anne addresses the frustrations of NGOs all over the world who were expecting better from the Rio+20 inter-governmental summit.***



***To cite just one complaint, Greenpeace International's, Kumi Naidoo, said "We didn't get the Future We Want in Rio, because we do not have the leaders we need". So, let's see what advice Anne and Molly have to offer.***

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Dear Hearts,

I know just how you NGOs must be feeling – disappointed and let down after having so much expectation and hope.

First things first, after experiencing such a frustrating disappointment I'd recommend lying flat on the floor with a cool, wet flannel placed over your forehead and closed eyes for several minutes. I regularly do this for myself and find it both calming and restoring. Once at peace I am in a better position to reflect. Molly, my faithful mutt, doesn't follow this regime. She prefers the more frenzied approach to handling what irks; a spirited squirrel chase, a howl at a distant moon, a wild effort to catch her own tail - each to their own.

Sadly, I've found it a salient truth that those we want to receive from are so often unable to deliver for us. Perhaps we need to think about the possibility of rallying ourselves and giving ourselves what we need. It's horribly unfair to think this may be so when we'd been promised but, alas, it's the way of the world no matter how much we wish it were different.

To address the detail of your keen frustration with Rio+20; if you or I perchance were elected as a minister how could we possibly push policies which would inevitably make our national economy uncompetitive? If we tried we'd be stoutly drummed from office. Simply hurling blame at our leaders without understanding their constraints is, in effect, pointless and, dare I say it, a little immature.

Accepting the reality is a struggle but once that cool flannel has soothed bothered heads perhaps we can consider a positive strategy of power, where blame dissolves as we let go of expecting the impossible of others and instead start to call the shots and move forward

healthy and grown-up. By releasing the shackles of blame we are free to take adult responsibility; free, dear Hearts, to take control.

Simpol is just such a strategy. Not only does it take into account the fetters of international competition, it offers a new way for us to use our votes which politicians themselves will find hard to resist. Rather than live in a purgatory of inevitable frustration and blame, which is so exhausting and bad for the bloom of the skin, we can use Simpol to move to a position of mature adult control.

I am reminded of faithful Molly who is unable to demand of me filet mignon and diced calves liver for her dinner. Her plaintive whine and disappointed look are endearing but border, quite frankly, on the irritating. Thankfully I know what is good for Molly but our dear leaders, corseted by constraints, cannot do what's best for us or the planet. So it is we, alas, who must release them.

We need to ask ourselves if we want to be like Molly, forever helpless, or do we use a tool like Simpol to gain control of the keys to the pantry? It's up to us.

With love from your beloved,

**Agony Anne.** [agony.anne@simpol.org](mailto:agony.anne@simpol.org)

PS. here's a charming photo of Molly sitting with her bowl, forever hopeful...

