The World's Greatest Climate Hypocrite

We all make sacrifices, I got here by boat! (after the jet, obvs)

Cheers!

GWPF
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Competition is fierce for this year’s Climate Hypocrite of the Year Awards; no more so than in the Luvvie Section. Past winner Leonardo DiCaprio is, as ever, one of the frontrunners. When he’s not lecturing us on climate change, our Leo (‘Climate change is real, it is happening right now. It is the most urgent threat facing our entire species’) is cruising on his private yacht or flying between his four luxury homes in New York and California. Even by Hollywood luvvie standards, DiCaprio’s appetite for private jet travel is legendary. Yet despite his ostentatious lifestyle, he has, for some strange reason, been a board member of WWF and the National Resources Defense Council, and a UN representative on climate change.

Back in 2016, Leo made a documentary with National Geographic called Before The Flood, predicting that we were all soon to be engulfed by rising seas. Apparently he was not convinced by his own apocalyptic propaganda though, because shortly afterwards he revealed plans to build an eco-resort on Blackadore Caye in Belize.

Many of this year’s leading contenders – the crème de la crème of the wokerati – joined Leo at Google’s camp in Sicily earlier this year. They listened to Prince Harry give an impassioned speech on climate change, before retiring to their luxury yachts and villas. Others who jetted in for the party included the tiresome Orlando ‘very passionate about the environment’ Bloom and the dismal UN weather girl, Katy ‘children at risk from droughts and floods’ Perry.

Woody Harrelson, best known as the dopey bartender in Cheers, made an equally dopey video this year, entitled Our House is on Fire. No prizes for guessing what that was about! Laughingly, at the Cannes Film Festival in 2008, Woody realised that he had left his vegan belt and shoes behind, so he had them flown to France from California. And, yes, he was partying in Sicily as well.
Another competitor vying tirelessly for the big prize is film producer James Cameron, with his yacht, helicopter, submarines and assorted cars and motorbikes, not to mention three mansions. Starring in the nine-part alarmist Showtime documentary *Years of Living Dangerously*, he warned future generations were going to be left with a ‘world that’s in shambles’ because of climate change.

And then there’s John Travolta, who once told us we must all do our bit to tackle global warming. It seems his solution is to own four private jets, all parked at the bottom of his garden. Well, I suppose that saves getting his limo out every time he wants to go to the airport!

But the front runner from Hollywood has to be none other than Harrison Ford, our old friend Indiana Jones. Indy stood up at the UN Climate Action Summit in September and made an impassioned plea to the audience: ‘We all suffer the effects of climate change. So, let’s turn off our phones, let’s roll up our sleeves, and let’s kick this monster’s ass!’ Ford owns several extravagant homes, plus twelve private planes, nine motorcycles and six cars. His private plane collection includes two gas-guzzling corporate jets. Fun-nily enough, he did not mention those. Ford says flying is his passion though, so that’s alright then!

Actor Mark Rylance made news in June, when he flounced out of the Royal Shakespeare Company because of their sponsorship deal with BP. This was the same Rylance who was more than happy to take his theatre production, *Farinelli and the King*, across the Atlantic last year to appear on Broadway, courtesy of the world’s oil wells.

Rylance has also written a chapter for a new book called *Letters to the Earth: Writing to a Planet in Crisis*, which he says was inspired after a trip rafting down the Colorado River. Maybe he rafted across the Atlantic as well, in order to avoid using those fossil fuels he so despises. But I somehow doubt it!

But my favourite to win the Luvvie Hypocrite of the Year Award is serial eco-protestor Emma Thompson. Remarkably, even by her standards, Emma had the brazenness to fly all the way from Los Angeles to London just so she could join the Extinction Rebellion protest in London. She even went first class, quaffing Laurent-Perrier champagne to wash down her beef carpaccio. It would not do to mix with the hoi-polloi in tourist class now, would it Emma? You could not make it up!

Luvvies don’t just ply their trade in the world of stage and screen of course. Luvviedom is a state of mind, and ecoluvvies can be found in many walks of life. As if to prove the point, two of the bookies’ favourites for the *Luvvie* category are the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. It was, of course, Prince Harry who – with jaw-dropping brazenness – has this...
to say in a speech he gave in Fiji:

One of the greatest challenges is undoubtedly climate change, and all of you living here are confronted with this threat in your daily lives. You're actually experiencing changing weather patterns, ferocious cyclones and rising sea levels, particularly in places such as Tuvalu and Kiribati, and you've been living with this for many years, way before the world actually started talking about it.

It is a theme he has continued since, for instance in his barefoot speech at the Google Camp this year, and again in Botswana. But like the very best hypocrites down the years, Harry naturally believes his advice does not apply to himself. His recent use of unnecessary private jet travel must put even his uncle, `Air Miles’ Andy, in the shade. In the last fifteen months, Harry and Meghan have used private jets to fly to Lake Como, Amsterdam, New York, Ibiza, and Elton John’s villa on the French Riviera. None of these trips were on royal business; they were simply for partying. Harry even reportedly flew by private jet and helicopter to Google’s ecocamp in Sicily. And these are only the trips we know about.

It’s not just the luvvies who are competing. We also have an award for high achievement in the field of ecobusiness hypocrisy. Among the top contenders for Business Hypocrite of the Year are likely to be Larry Page and Sergey Brin, for their brass neck in organising the aforementioned ultra-secretive Google Camp in Sicily this year. As we have seen, a bevy of A-list celebrities and power brokers gathered together to solve climate change, along with the rest of the world’s problems. Prince Harry gave an impassioned speech to the assembled bigwigs about saving the planet, a task no doubt made even more urgent by the 114 private jets and a flotilla of luxury yachts that brought the delegates to the event.

We also have a Hypocritical Green Politician category, where competition has been particularly fierce. Sir Nick Clegg, the patronising former leader of the Lib Dems, has packed his bags for California, tempted by a million pound a year job with the internet giant Facebook. He evidently has not taken his concerns about the climate with him, as he has moved into a sprawling – and energy guzzling – $7m mansion.

The new leader of the Lib Dems – Jo ‘the climate emergency is an existential threat’ Swinson – obviously believes cutting back on flights is just for the little people, as her expenses show that she made 38 flights between London and Glasgow last year, all funded by the taxpayer.

Not to be outdone, fifty of the world’s mayors flew to Denmark in November, ostensibly to discuss ways to address the ‘global climate emergency’. Apparently telling adults to eat less than 300 grams of red meat – about the equivalent of two fillet steaks – a week was one initiative they could
agree on. Maybe their next initiative should be to stop attending worthless conferences, and use video conferencing instead.

Then there’s Joe ‘we are staring down the barrel of a climate disaster’ Biden. Worried he might be, but Joe’s desperation to be elected President in 2020 overrides such mundane matters as global warming. In the last three months alone, his campaign team has spent $924,000 on private jets. Commercial flights? Not a chance. They’re for riff raff, like Emma Thompson and Jo Swinson. (Having said that though, I think I might pay extra to avoid having to sit next to those two for hours on end!)

Another frontrunner is none other than the European Union. In spite of continually proclaiming its green credentials, the bloc has recently raised the amount that can be spent under a five-year contract for ‘air taxi’ flights by more than €3.5 million, according to a document published this month. The new maximum amount of €10.71 million for the contract, which runs from 2016 to 2021, represents a 50 percent increase on the original value of €7.14 million.

One rule for EU, and another for us!!

Another top contender is Karen La Borde, Green Party candidate for Camborne and Redruth. Although she is a lifelong campaigner for climate action, she also happens to own the Winter Sports Company, a posh skiing company, which, as well as organising trips to Canada, New Zealand and France (by jet, naturally), even offers heli-skiing – skiing using highly un-environmental helicopters. A conscience is nice, but business is business!

Celebrities hate being called out for their hypocrisy, as they are so disconnected from reality. They do, of course, trot out the usual excuses, for instance saying how they pay for ‘carbon credits’, or how their travel is ‘vital’. Even that it was somebody else’s jet. The public, however, see through this chicanery and know that they are just a bunch of selfish, dishonest hypocrites.

So watch out celebs – you will continue to be called out, whether you like it or not!

Help us choose the winner
To help us find the winner, send your nominations to info@thegwpf.com, together with a few words about why you think they are deserving of the accolade, in each of the three categories:

• Luvvie
• Business
• Politician

Nominations close on 13 December and the winners will be announced the following week, just in time for Christmas!
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