

Solving problems does not include attacks on the problem solvers by each other.

The truth of solving large, shared problems is that our partners in that solution are the people we are most quick to blame - and attack. The events in Portland are as detrimental to our ability to solve our collective problems as the riots in the Capitol on January 6th were to our principles for doing so.

No amount of ignorance changes the fact that the person next to us has to see it as in their interest to work with us. They may be slow to learn, they may be wrong, but it is, as it always was our job to understand their position, first, and most importantly.

Without doing so, we cannot fashion a solution for those who will work with us and equally ensure those who wish to resist, limit, or ignore the problem have no choice but to accept they must be actively part of the shared solution as well.

Our collective ignorance of how to combat climate change, along with our racism, discrimination and hate demonstrates unwillingness to accept this reality.

The science of climate change is straightforward and conclusive, in that overwhelmingly, human activity is the most likely cause of heating on the earth's surface. Additionally, climate change guarantees negative effects on each of us. So, why the level of intransigence and inactivity on its solution?

For many, simply surviving to that period in the future, when climate change universally affects our daily lives seems impossible when the challenges of life today are so difficult.

Admitting to climate change forces us to acknowledge that we don't know what happens tomorrow. Our solutions will cause some of our neighbors to lose their jobs. Some will lose their homes, careers and hopes for the future. When we are in their shoes, we are also less willing to act.

The nature of membership in society is that when a policy trumpeted by one group offers forward progress in terms of human life, it always changes someone else's immediate future and forces the person experiencing the change to adapt, learn and grow.

This opportunity for change comes for each of us, as knowledge and circumstance intersect with our human desires. But we can't expect ourselves to progress if we don't also anticipate and provide steps in those solutions that help affected groups account for the changes of the justified and necessary new policy.

In absence of this approach, the changes to peoples' lives occur and we still have to solve them - simply later, poorer, less well-prepared and alone.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/destructive-protests-by-anarchists-and-extremists-signal-divided-left-as-biden-administration-begins/2021/01/23/70f93610-5d8c-11eb-a976-bad6431e03e2\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/destructive-protests-by-anarchists-and-extremists-signal-divided-left-as-biden-administration-begins/2021/01/23/70f93610-5d8c-11eb-a976-bad6431e03e2_story.html)