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Robert Redford: A Brief Statement About Big Things

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

Tonight, for the first time I can remember, I feel out of place in the country I was born into and the citizenship Iâ??ve loved my whole life. For weeks Iâ??ve watched with sadness as our civil servants have failed us, turning toward bigotry, mean-spiritedness, and mockery as the now-normal tools of the trade.
How can we expect the next generation to step up and serve, to be interested in public life, and to aspire to get involved when all we show them is how to spar, attack, and destroy each other?

Itâ??s hard to blame young people for calling us out, and pointing to our conflicts between the values we declare, and those we stand behind only when itâ??s convenient to partisanship. Many people are rightly calling it a damn mess.

But I want to encourage you to dig deep for hope and civility right nowâ??to try to make connections with people you disagree with, to be better than our politicians.

We donâ??t have to share the same motivations to want the same outcomes. Letâ??s focus on each other, and strengthening our communities, and reflecting on whatâ??s happening. Letâ??s live in justice and respect and let others fight it out now to the bitter ends.

This is our country too. Every woman, man, and child in it, our American future.

Weâ??ve got work to do.

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Category

1. Sundance
2. Sundance Film Festival

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