From 30 June - 8 July 2018 it’s the Climate Coalition’s Speak Up Week. With hundreds of events around the country, your conversation with an MP could add to the wave of activity on climate change.

Meet your MP
The enclosed MP briefing contains further details about why we’re calling for an update to the Climate Change Act. Remember to tell your MP why you care about climate change and what’s happening locally.

Give us feedback
It’s vital to tell us if you met with your MP and what their response was. It gives us an overview of MPs’ positions on our campaign. Fill out the simple form below to do so.

If you want to know more about Speak Up, or organise a Speak Up event, email me at locallobbyist@christian-aid.org

Latest update
Over the last few months you’ve been talking to MPs about people forced to flee their homes. You’ve helped shape the debate to recognise those displaced within their own country, unable to cross a border.

The International Development Secretary, Penny Mordaunt, recently stated that she will support the formation of a high-level international panel to examine the issue of internally displaced people.

This sends an important signal that the UK is committed to addressing this problem. And it wouldn’t have happened without campaigners like you. We’ll be putting on the pressure for further action on this issue, and keeping you posted.

This month we’re focusing our attention on climate change, a major driver of displacement and poverty.
The Climate Change Act 10th anniversary

Ten years ago, thousands of you helped to persuade MPs across the political spectrum to pass the ground-breaking Climate Change Act in 2008. The first of its kind anywhere in the world, this law required the UK to cut its carbon emissions by 80% against emissions levels in 1990, and to do so by 2050.

The resulting emission cuts will have long-term benefits across the world, including in the world’s poorest communities who are the worst affected by climate change.

It was an ambitious target in 2008, but the world has moved on since then, both politically and scientifically. The law is now ten years out of date.

The Paris Agreement of 2015 commits governments around the world to keeping global temperature rises well below 2 degrees, with a clear aspiration to limit rises to 1.5 degrees. To do so, all governments will have to increase their ambition, including the UK.

So, in its 10th anniversary year, the Climate Change Act needs to be brought in line with the Paris Agreement and the latest science.

We need you to tell your MP – our legislators – of this need.

Please meet your MP and hand them the enclosed briefing.

Please ask your MP: would you support a change to the Climate Change Act to include more ambitious targets in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement?

• If they say yes, ask them what they’d be willing to do to bring about such a change, and ask how you could help them.

• If they say no, and you can’t persuade them, ask them why. Let me know, and we may be able to help you persuade them over the coming months.

Finally, please tell us how your MP responded. This will help us take forward this campaign in Parliament.

PS From 30 June to 8 July 2018, communities across the UK will be meeting MPs at local events linked to climate change as part of the Speak Up Week organised by The Climate Coalition.

To find out which Speak Up events are going on near you, visit the Speak Up events map at weekofaction.org. These events could be a great opportunity to engage your local MP in a conversation about the Climate Change Act.

Your feedback is important!

Please let me know if you were in touch with your MP and how they responded. This will help to build up a picture of the messages they’ve received. We can also answer any questions, or help if an MP has requested more information.

Contact me at locallobbyist@christian-aid.org or 0207 523 2014

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Arturo’s story

Arturo Tahup works for Christian Aid partner, the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC), in the Philippines. He supports communities that have been hit by disasters to rebuild – with clean energy at the heart of the recovery. Arturo calls it ‘building back brighter.’

In November 2013, almost everything in Tacloban City was destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan. ICSC worked with survivors and other communities vulnerable to disaster to develop local renewable energy solutions, such as solar packs.

These provide lights and ways to charge phones and medical equipment in times of emergency. The impact for poor communities is transformative.

And the community is moving forward, knowing they are not contributing further to changes in the climate that exacerbated their trauma.

As the people of Tacloban continue to rise from the ruins of a disaster, Arturo believes we need to move away from dirty fuels that cause the climate change crisis and move to clean, sustainable energy solutions.

This is the level of ambition we need from the UK government.

Let us know more!

3. Were you able to meet with or write to your MP about the Climate Change Act? Met with ☐ Wrote to ☐

4. Did your MP tell you whether they would support a change to the Climate Change Act to make it more ambitious? If so, could you tell us more about their response?

5. Did your MP agree to take any action?

6. Would you like us to help draft a question or a reply to your MP? Enclose their reply or a question and we will get back to you.