

MAKE POLLUTERS PAY ACTION DAY



SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

Holding a pilgrimage



Michael Preston / Quakers in Britain

Make Polluters Pay Action Day will see people across the UK call on the UK Prime Minister to urgently make polluting industries pay up for climate induced loss and damage.

This UK guide explains more about loss and damage and outlines how to hold a pilgrimage.

What is loss and damage?

Rising global temperatures, caused by greenhouse gas emissions are driving the climate crisis. It's leading to more frequent and severe climate disasters. These climate disasters are happening on a scale so large that communities don't have the resources to adapt, causing them to experience loss and damage. Losses are things which can never be replaced like loss of lives, livelihoods and culture. While damage, such as to homes, roads and schools can be repaired, but it takes resources.

In 2022 more than 1,700 people died due to the floods in Pakistan. And in 2023 over half a million people were displaced in Malawi after their homes were damaged by Cyclone Freddy.

The climate crisis is impacting us all, but those most affected are communities in the global south, who have done the least to cause it.

When climate disasters strike it's affected communities who lead the response. They rebuild their homes, plant new crops and make up for lost income. They pay the bill for loss and damage.

Meanwhile those responsible for the climate crisis, like fossil fuel corporations, continue to make vast profits from their polluting industry, and turn their backs on the loss and damage they've caused.

In 2022 the combined total profits of BP, ExxonMobil, Shell and Total Energies was \$159.5 billion.

What is the solution?

As well as doing all we can to limit temperature rises to minimise future loss and damage, we must make those most responsible pay up for loss and damage too.

Thanks to the powerful demands of countries and campaigners in the Global South, in 2022 governments agreed to create an international Loss and Damage Fund. But right now, the fund is empty.

Those most responsible need to pay into the fund now. In doing so it could allow affected communities to access money to support their recovery, and show that big polluters must take responsibility for their climate destroying actions. But the profit driven actions of big polluters show they won't do this willingly.

Join in this Make Polluters Pay Action Day and call on the UK Prime Minister to urgently make polluters pay.

#MakePollutersPay

HOLDING A PILGRIMAGE



A pilgrimage is a way to learn more about the issue of loss and damage and the role those participating can play in making polluters pay. It also offers a particular opportunity to speak to people's faith. Whether you journey with a few friends or as a larger community group, you'll be contributing to a host of activities pressuring the UK Prime Minister to make polluters pay.

What to do during your pilgrimage?

You can shape your own pilgrimage, but you might like to include some of the suggested things below:

- **Welcome:** Allow a few minutes for people to arrive and then start by welcoming everyone.
- **Agenda and roles:** Share what you plan to do during your pilgrimage, including where you're going. If you're more than a couple of people introduce anyone who has a specific role such as a route guide, wellbeing contact, public/police liaison, media link, and photographer/videographer.
- **Prayers and reflections:** Arrange time for prayers and reflections. It can be really powerful to make this interfaith, allowing space for the accumulated wisdom of many traditions to be shared. You'll find a collection of interfaith prayers and reflections at- caid.org.uk/mppadreflections

- **Testimonials:** Personal stories are a powerful way to help people relate to an issue. Invite a few people to share about how they found out about loss and damage, what struck them about it and why they think polluters should pay. Try to have a range of voices e.g. people of different faiths, those who don't usually speak, or those who have personal experience of loss and damage. You could have someone read a testimonial of a young adult from the global south at- caid.org.uk/&dvideos
- **Silence:** Moments of silence give an opportunity for people to personally reflect on the injustice of loss and damage and their role in bringing change. It's also visually powerful in a busy location.
- **Singing:** This can be both a powerful communal experience for those joining in and capture the attention of people passing by. To help people sing it's a good idea to have copies of the words and pick songs/tunes they know. If it's safe to, you can sing as you walk. You can find a collection of various climate action faith songs at- <https://tinyurl.com/ccasongbook>
- **Closing:** At the end share how everyone can stay in contact, and thank people for coming.

Impact: If there are speakers, plan this for a location where they can be heard or use a PA in busy spaces, as you don't want their insights to be missed. You might want your pilgrimage to be visible to those passing, you could do this by making banners or placards with simple messages such as make polluters pay, or you could hand out flyers. You can find more on these resources in our comms pack at- caid.org.uk/mppadcomms

Timing: It's important to keep to your agreed time, we recommend planning for a

pilgrimage no longer than 90 minutes in total to help keep it accessible.

I don't know enough about loss and damage to hold a pilgrimage.

You don't need to know everything to hold a pilgrimage, a pilgrimage is an opportunity to learn more through the shared wisdom of those gathered, but if you'd like more information you could:

- Watch Stamp Out Poverty's Loss and Damage- and Who Should Pay for It Video- <https://tinyurl.com/rhldvideo>
- Read Christian Aid's 1 pager to learn more about where the money for the Loss and Damage Fund should come from- caid.org.uk/mppmayreport

Suggested Pilgrimage timeline

- Six weeks before: Confirm route, agenda and speakers.
- Four weeks before: Start promoting your pilgrimage.
- Three weeks before: Organise materials, equipment and contact the police.
- The week before: Send out reminders and confirm pilgrimage roles.
- The week/ day of: Run through your plans and arrive early to set up.

Where to hold your pilgrimage?

A pilgrimage is a journey, so you'll need a start and end location, and you might like mark spots along the way. With your start location try to pick somewhere where those taking part have access to facilities such as parking, toilets and seats. Also make sure it's quiet enough that people can hear any opening words- places of worship can work well for this. For your end location it's good to make it relevant to the issue of your pilgrimage, it could be a place linked the political system such as your MP's office, somewhere linked to fossil fuels like a petrol station, or a prominent public space. Make sure you have the right permissions to use your route and consider those around you.

To help make your route as accessible as possible think about the terrain, places to sit, and how long it is (we'd recommend a route of no more than 25 minutes' walk and when testimonials etc. are included your pilgrimage being no more than 90 minutes in total). For more information on how to make your pilgrimage accessible visit- <https://tinyurl.com/lpaccessible>

Everyone has the right to peaceful protest, but as your pilgrimage involves moving you are required by [law](#) to inform the police in writing at least 6 days before, in this include the date, time, route and contact details of the organiser(s). For more information visit- <https://tinyurl.com/lppolice>

When to hold your pilgrimage?

Make Polluters Pay Action Day is on Saturday 23 September. Don't worry if this doesn't work for your group – find a time and date that works for you.

How can I invite people?

There are lots of simple ways to invite people to get involved, the key is to share why this is important and the impact they can make. Here's some ways to invite others:

- **Email lists:** Invite via email using existing lists such as members of worship communities, or draw up one yourself from friends and local networks.
- **Websites:** Share on local community group websites, and add to [ours](#) directly or contact us via campaigns@christian-aid.org
- **Social media:** Create an event page on [Facebook](#) or [Eventbrite](#) and share on your own profile too.
- **Local media:** Contact your local newspapers, radio and TV stations as they're often interested in community action, they might even come along.
- **Posters:** Hand out posters, or put them up in busy spaces such as community

centers, places of worship, your place of education or work.

- **Announcements:** Share about your pilgrimage in the notice section of a community meeting.
- **Speak to people:** Talk to friends, family and your wider community about it and ask them to pass it on.

To help with inviting others download our comms pack – caid.org.uk/mppadcomms

And if you're organising this as a group make sure you know who's contacting who and how.

After your pilgrimage

Thanks and follow up: Thank those who attended and follow up with them about what's next. Also let others know what happened- here your pictures and videos will make a big impact.

- **Local media:** Increase the impact of your pilgrimage by sharing what happened with your local press. Christian Aid supporters in Irthlingborough put an article in their local paper about their fundraiser for Cyclone Freddy – their MP spotted it and wrote to them – you never know who's looking! You can use the template press release in the comms pack and providing a picture can help capture the moment.
- **Share on social media:** By posting your photos and or videos on your social media you'll spread the message about the injustice of loss and damage, also see if you can get others to share on theirs too.

- **Let Make Polluters Pay know:** We'd love to know what you did, how many took part, and any follow up plans. We'll add it to our online gallery to celebrate your action, inspire others and show politicians just how many people believe it's time to make polluters pay. Add #MPPAD to your social posts and you'll be added automatically, or email us at campaigns@christian-aid.org Don't forget to share a picture if you have one.

Political impact: To make polluters pay for loss and damage we need our politicians on board. A great way to do this through your pilgrimage is to encourage people to contact their MP. You could do this via:

- **Letter:** At the end or after your pilgrimage you can ask people to sign a letter you've written to your local MP. Multiple signatories show it's an issue many people care about. In the comms pack you'll find an editable template MP letter. Before you send it why not include a photo from your pilgrimage so they can see who took part.
- **Email:** Ask people to sign the Make Polluters Pay online MP action, and remind them to mention the pilgrimage as this shows their MP a higher level of commitment than just this quick online action alone- <https://tinyurl.com/mppadmpe>

If you have already contacted your local MP you can use the opportunity of your pilgrimage to update them about your current activity and reply to their most recent response. Christian Aid have some 'what to say next' suggestions to some common MP replies at- caid.org.uk/mppmpnext

Made by Make Polluters Pay, Christian Aid and Faith for the Climate in partnership with others.



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Disclaimer: This guide offers only guidance on holding a pilgrimage, it isn't intended to be used as legal advice. For more on how to get legal advice visit- <https://tinyurl.com/libertylegal>

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