

CLIMATE JUSTICE OR CLIMATE CHANGE



The Climate Crisis is complex. This brief activity will help young people to begin to explore the meanings of the distinct terms '**climate justice**' and '**climate change**' and to consider the extent to which the climate crisis is a human rights and inequality crisis. This question is often overlooked when people talk about climate change because people often only focus on the natural world.

Talking about climate justice points towards the things that are unfair about the climate crisis and how to make them fairer, while talking about climate change points towards the science of the causes and the effects of the climate crisis.

Time: 15 minutes

What to do:

1. Print and cut out the statements on the following page. Prepare one set of statements for each small group of young people
2. Ask the young people to read and discuss each statement in turn and then organise the statements into two categories: climate justice statements or climate change statements.
3. Ask the young people to agree their own definitions of **climate justice** and **climate change** and write these down.



Farmers in Burkina Faso, West Africa, cannot rear animals because of a drought caused by climate change. They face hunger. Meanwhile the average person in the UK emits twenty eight times more carbon than the average person in Burkina Faso. *Photo: Gery Barbot/Oxfam*

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Climate Justice Statements	Climate Change Statements
People living in countries with the highest rates of poverty are suffering the worst effects of climate change	Burning fossil fuels releases greenhouse gases into the air. This causes the planet to heat up
Climate change will affect young people more than older people	Climate change is leading to a loss of natural life everywhere.
In some cases, climate change can affect women and girls more than men and boys.	Climate change will affect everybody to some extent. Everybody will need to do some things differently.
Rising sea levels affect people who live on the Pacific islands more than people who live in mountainous countries	As temperatures rise the polar ice caps are melting. This is leading to rising sea levels.
Countries with greater wealth have burned more fossil fuels than countries with less wealth	Many human activities cause climate change. These include transport, farming and how we heat our homes
Countries with greater wealth are able to protect themselves better from the effects of climate change than countries with less wealth	Climate change is changing weather patterns - for example temperature and rainfall - in many different ways.
Countries responsible for the lowest carbon emissions unfairly experience the worst impacts of climate change	Walking more, turning the heat down and recycling can all help to reduce a person's individual carbon emissions