



Climate Campaigns Church Intergenerational Resource (11 -111 years old!)

Introduction for Leaders:

This resource has been created by Christian Aid to support church communities to explore the key areas of Climate Justice with all ages above 11 years old.

It can help you and your church support young and older people to understand the issue, lead conversations and develop themselves as courageous advocates.

Although it can be used across the age-range; It's designed especially to support young people.

The four activities below will:

- Develop people's knowledge and understanding of climate justice issues
- Develop people's leadership skills
- Enable the church community to journey together in climate campaigning and advocacy.



There are four areas of focus: Climate Justice; Loss and Damage; Make Polluters Pay; No New Fossil Fuels. Each of these has an activity, questions for reflection and facilitator notes.

A note on climate anxiety

We want to acknowledge that, for many people, facing the climate crisis brings up big feelings. These might range from anxiety to anger to guilt to despair. It is really important that you are prepared for the fact that people might be experiencing difficult emotions when talking about climate and be ready to support them with that – and also that you yourself feel supported. A key concept in supporting people with climate change is *resilience*. It is useful to think about how you can support people to feel resilient and strong in relation to uncertainty and change. Please note that at Christian Aid, our vision for climate justice is rooted in hope and our faith that a better world is possible. We are encouraged by all the work that is happening across the world to address greenhouse gas emissions and meet the challenges of a warming world. Please be mindful when you talk about climate change to avoid framing that leans into doomism, and please think about how you build the capacity of young people and their communities to be emotionally and spiritually resilient.

CLIMATE JUSTICE

Activity: Am I talking climate change or climate justice?

Either print and cut out each of these statements, or read them out and ask participants to vote on whether it is a climate justice or climate change statement.

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.
People worst impacted by climate change globally are people of colour.	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.



Questions for reflection:

- What is the difference between climate change and climate justice?
- Is everyone equally responsible for causing climate change?
- Who is most impacted by climate change?
 - Are people of colour more affected by climate change?
 - Are younger people more affected by climate change than older generations?
 - Are men and women equally affected?

Facilitator notes:

Climate justice means understanding that the climate crisis facing our world is a matter of justice. Generally speaking, the people most affected by climate change have done the least to contribute to it; this is fundamentally unjust.

Our current economy has its roots in colonialism and been based on extraction of resources that exploits poorer countries, and black and brown people. Our current economic model continues to exploit both people and planet, leaving communities trapped in cycles of poverty as well as driving towards a deepening climate crisis. To address climate crisis, we need to recognise these structures and redesign them to realise a more just and sustainable future for everyone.

To work toward climate justice means we must listen to the voices of those most affected. When thinking about climate justice, we must acknowledge that it is also about racial justice. Watch this short film created by Christian Aid in partnership with Dr Robert Beckford. [Climate and Racial Justice Film – YouTube/](#)

LOSS AND DAMAGE

Activity: Mapping

Watch this short video, which features youth climate activist Ineza Umuhoza Grace from Rwanda talking about the impact of climate change in her community.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVSQDDz72I&ab_channel=IIED

In your groups, take a blank map (appendix) and colour in the areas of the world that you think are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change – things like droughts, floods and storms. While it is important to recognise that climate change will have an impact all over the world, the purpose of this activity is to think about where (and ultimately who) will be most severely affected.



Once you have filled in your map together as a group. Compare your map with this climate vulnerability map <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2022/03/10/mapping-vulnerability-why-the-ipccs-geography-of-climate-risk-is-contentious/>

Share this statement:

“Loss and Damage is an important climate justice concept. It refers to the things that are lost and damaged as a result of climate change”.

Questions for reflection:

- What are the kinds of things that can be damaged as a result of climate change?
- What are the kinds of things that can be lost as a result of climate change?
- How might Loss and Damage affect individuals and communities?
- When we look at the Map of Climate vulnerability what patterns can you identify about who is most affected?

Facilitator notes:

When we talk about climate change, we often hear people talking about the future – the consequences of what climate change will do. But climate change has been negatively impacting the poorest people for generations already; it has exacerbated poverty, affected people’s ability to grow food and to make a living; it has caused some people to move from where they live.

So when we talk about Loss and Damage, we’re talking about people’s experience of climate change right now.

A list of some of the things that can be lost and damaged:

Lost	Damaged
Lives	Local environment
Jobs	Infrastructure such as roads, hospitals, schools
Education	Homes
Land	Food and water sources
Knowledge	Belongings

Looking at the vulnerability map we can see that many of the areas that are most vulnerable are also home to a majority of people of colour. A lot of these countries

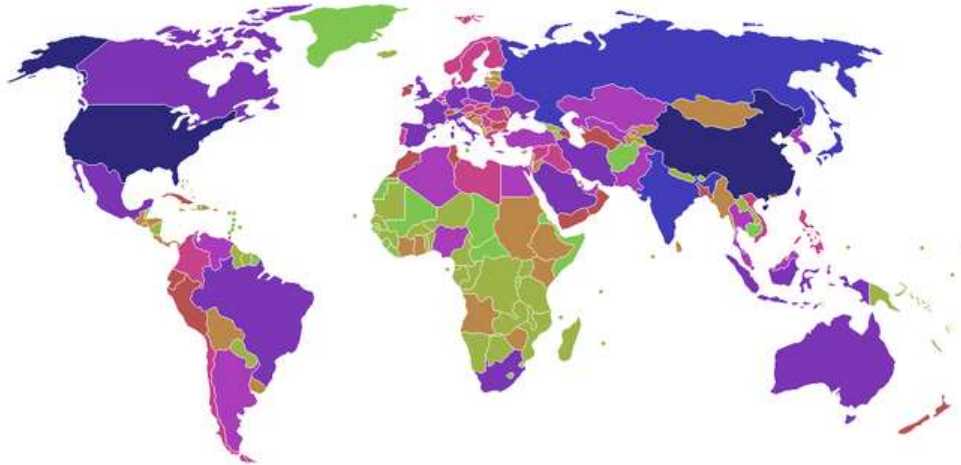


have also historically been colonised by major European powers. It is not possible to untangle these issues from climate justice.

MAKE POLLUTERS PAY

Activity: Climate polluters map

Take another blank map and as a group, colour in the countries you think are most responsible for causing climate change. When you have finished, compare your map with this emissions map below. If you have access to a computer with your group you could use this interactive CO2 emissions map: <https://www.carbonmap.org/#>



Should we Make Polluters Pay?

Share this statement:

Now that we understand that not everyone has equal responsibility for the problem of climate change, and that those who have the least responsibility are often the ones who experience the worst impacts, let's talk about who pays for the damage. We believe that those who've contributed in a major way to the climate crisis should pay. This includes:

- governments of historically wealthy countries that have benefited from climate-wrecking industries
- private companies that have caused climate havoc in the pursuit of profits.

Questions for reflection:

- When we look at the CO2 emissions map, what patterns can we see about who is most responsible?

- Is climate change driven by individuals or larger groups such as countries or companies?
- Is it moral or ethical to cause harm and then expect those not responsible to repair the damage?
- How might Climate Justice and Racial Justice be connected?

Facilitator notes:

Rich nations in the global north (countries that are north of the equator) like the UK, bear a historic responsibility for causing climate change. Rich nations have benefitted from climate-harming industries, often at the expense of people elsewhere in the world). Alongside countries that have built wealth and power, private companies also bear responsibility for this issue. Fossil fuel companies for example, have made vast amounts of money extracting fossil fuels and they continue to do so, supported by governments. UK fossil fuel companies continue to make record profits from climate-harming practices.

It's important to note that a lot of what you hear about climate change shifts the focus away from those most responsible (governments & companies) on to individuals. There has been a long history of the dominant narrative on climate action being for people to change their personal behaviour to limit climate change. But whilst what we do as individuals does matter, the scale and pace of changes needed to tackle this problem actually requires governments to legislate and businesses to change their practices. This is less about individual behavioural change and more about systemic change, which can be achieved by effective campaigning.

NO NEW FOSSIL FUELS

Activity: Play [Fumes or Futures](#) –

This game designed by Christian Aid explores the importance of moving to sustainable energy sources.

CO2 emissions from fossil fuels are driving climate change. We are at a point in time when we need to rapidly move away from using fossil fuels. It makes no logical sense for governments and companies to continue to extract fossil fuels and make the situation worse – especially for those who are already vulnerable.

Cutting emissions from fossil fuels and moving to renewable energy sources is a vital step that helps to address a root cause of climate change.

Questions for reflection:

- Can we meet our climate targets and still take fossil fuels out of the ground?



- Do we still need fossil fuel for our energy sources?
- Does it matter if the UK is meeting its energy targets?

Facilitator notes:

It's important to consider the UK's historic responsibility for contributing towards climate change. Not only does the UK climate targets like Net Zero matter for preserving life and limiting the damage of climate change, but the UK's historic responsibility places greater emphasis on meeting our net zero targets. This simply is not possible while we continue to fund fossil fuel extraction.

Suggested follow up activities:

Christian Aid has collaborated with Fischy Music to produce a song on climate justice: [Let Justice Roll Like a River](#). You could learn and sing this song together.

You could use Christian Aid's [Prayer and Placards](#) resource and run a placard making workshop.

T-shirt designing – get hold of some ethically sourced white Ts and some fabric pens and design your climate justice message e.g. Make Polluters Pay? Climate Justice = Racial Justice? No New Fossil Fuels? Get thinking about your message and wear it with pride for the community to see.

MP writing/Meeting – if you would find it useful you can find our hints and tips for writing to MPs with young people in our [Beyond the Bake Sale](#) resource. If still aren't sure what to ask your MP to do, you can use our [MP briefing](#) in the [Prayer and Placards](#) resource.



Appendix – Blank World Map



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