

Climate Justice

What you can do

- Share a copy of the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland Manifesto with your MSPs ahead of the publication of the Scottish Government's draft Climate Change Plan.
- Send your MSPs a save the date for the Creative for Climate Justice exhibition 3-5 September.
- Call on your MP and Prospective Parliamentary Candidates to pursue climate, debt, and economic justice.

What is climate justice?

To achieve climate justice, the most polluting countries, businesses, and individuals must pay for climate mitigation, adaptation and [loss and damage](#); instead of those who have done the least to cause it. This is also known as the polluter pays principle.

When we engage with our Scottish politicians on climate justice it is important to speak of the interactions with other types of justice. Two examples of this are:

- Climate justice is linked to racial justice as many global inequalities have their roots in colonialism and slavery, which fuelled the industrial revolution, Britain's wealth, and subsequent carbon footprint. Learn more about this in the Christian Aid blog, the [history of racial and climate justice](#), and from our webinar on [decolonising climate conversations](#).
- Climate justice is linked to debt justice, this is because many of the poorest countries have unsustainable and unjust debt which they spend a large proportion of their GDP on. This restricts the finance available for countries to adapt, respond and recover when climate disasters strike. Also, [Climate disasters are expensive](#) making it even harder to make debt repayments after they have occurred.

What happened at COP28?

At the UN Climate Conference (COP28), in December 2023, the big headline was that after 30 years of climate summits the conference adopted a statement, signed by all 190 nations calling on the world, to "transition away from fossil fuels". While it's a far cry from the urgent need to phase out fossil

fuels, as demanded by 130 of the most climate vulnerable states, it's the first time a COP has produced language that points to the end of the fossil fuel era. Work is needed to continue to press for urgent phasing out of oil and gas, and no new drilling.

The other big takeaway from the COP was the establishment of a [UN backed Loss and Damage fund](#) – a pot of money which rich nations fund to help countries on the frontline of the climate crisis recover from climate catastrophe. The UK committed to £60m, but this was repackaged money, from a pot already dedicated to tackling climate change. A long way off the £12.5bn that [Christian Aid estimates would be needed](#).

The lack of new and additional climate finance from countries was a broader issue at COP28 across all types of finance discussed. Check out Christian Aid's blog, [everything we saw at COP28](#) for more information.

Scottish Government Climate Action 2023

At COP28 the Scottish Government continued to advocate for loss and damage funding. Additionally, during 2023 they continued to provide climate finance funding; this was through the [Climate Justice Fund](#). Also, for the first time funding was provided by the Scottish Government from the [Humanitarian Emergency Fund](#) to tackle immediate loss and damage needs caused by climate disasters. Christian Aid partners have received [loss and damage funding for South Omo, Ethiopia](#).

The Scottish Government's advocacy and finance is in part because of your continued campaigning in Scotland on loss and damage. You can read more about the 2023 Christian Aid loss and damage campaign in our [briefing](#) and blogs on [Make](#)



caid.org.uk

[Polluters Pay Action Day](#) and the [COP28 Global Day of Action in Edinburgh](#).

However, domestically, the Scottish Government is missing critical climate targets, including its [greenhouse gas emissions target in 2023](#). There has also been a delay in publishing the updated Climate Change Plan which was expected in November 2023 but now will be published in Spring 2024. You can read about the importance of the Climate Change Plan in a [blog](#) by Stop Climate Chaos Scotland.

Contacting your MSPs

In 2023 Stop Climate Chaos Scotland released a [manifesto of policies](#) which provide the Scottish Government and UK Government policy suggestions to help them meet their climate and nature targets. Christian Aid helped to write this manifesto and we want MSPs to adopt the policies included with urgency.

We therefore need your help to keep the pressure on your MSPs to champion climate justice. You can write to them individually or as a church, there is a [template letter](#) if this is helpful; you can find out who your MSPs are [here](#).

Points to raise with your MSPs:

- **Ask the Scottish Government to maintain and expand commitments to international climate finance.** More information on the specifics of this can be found in the corresponding section of the manifesto available [here](#).
- **Ask your MSPs how they are going to tackle the climate crisis in 2024 through their work and how they are going to support the Climate Change Plan.** You can make this a more specific request depending on [the MSP's interests and recent work](#), you could send them the most relevant part of the SCCS manifesto.
- **Send a save the date for the [Creative for Climate Justice](#) exhibition 3-5 September.** School children are developing artwork on climate justice for an exhibition at Holyrood. MSPs can speak to children about their art from **13:00-14:15 on the 5 September**. If you know of schools that might be interested in taking part, please contact us.

Contacting your MP

This year there will be a UK Government General Election and people across the UK have the opportunity to engage with their current MPs and Prospective Parliamentary Candidates (PPCs) on important issues of justice. Points to raise with your MP/PPCs:

- **Call for a halt to all new oil and gas developments in the UK, and investment in good quality, secure green jobs.**
- **Ask for a significant increase in UK Government international climate funding.** This needs to be in addition to existing UK aid commitments, funds should be raised in part by the UK Government [taxing the vast profits of fossil fuel companies](#).
- **Ask for the introduction of legislation to facilitate debt relief for lower-income countries in debt distress.**

You can read the full list of asks on climate, peace and debt in the [Christian Aid PPCs guide](#).

Further Christian Aid resources

Christian Aid has a new report on the [impact of climate change on roses](#), and a [Counting the Cost 2023 report](#) on the expense of climate disasters last year.

You can learn more about how to engage local politicians, and how to campaign through craftivism using our [campaigns toolkit](#). You can also inspire your church using our [Act on Poverty course](#).

Contact us

Christian Aid's advocacy to MPs and MSPs is informed by responses received from our supporters contacting their local politicians. Therefore, please tell us if you engage with them and if you get a response.

We are happy to help or answer any questions you have. You can contact Lucy le Roux our Campaigns and Advocacy Coordinator: 0131 220 1254 or Lleroux@christian-aid.org



caid.org.uk