

Scottish Climate Policy Changes

What you can do

- **You could write to your local MSP** to ask them to stand up for bold climate action and you could send them a copy of the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland manifesto of policies.

Scottish Climate Policy Changes Spring 2024

In April 2024, the [Climate Change Committee](#) released a report stating that the Scottish Government's 2030 emissions reductions target was no longer credible as not enough progress had been made. This led to the subsequent decision by the Scottish Government to drop this legally binding target. Leading, at least in part, to the collapse of the Bute House Agreement between the Scottish National Party and the Scottish Greens, as well as the resignation of the First Minister.

The context of this is that for too long Scotland, has set world leading targets, but has not delivered sufficient domestic action on climate change. Without urgent and sustained change this will have grave implications for our planet and communities across Scotland and the world who are already experiencing the impacts of the climate crisis.

Reaction in Scotland

On May 9 2024 senior faith leaders, leading scientists, and members of civil society in Scotland gathered to collectively declare the strong moral and scientific imperative for renewed action to tackle the climate crisis.

A representative from each community spoke urging for unity in Scotland and that it is time to step up and act on climate. There was optimism that there can be a sustainable future for the people of Scotland and for those in other countries experiencing the worst effects of climate change. Change is possible if all parts of Scottish society come together, this includes businesses, faith communities, the Scottish Government, civil servants, charities, and civil society. You can read the full statements and see the signatories [here](#) and hear more about the event in our [blog](#).

Christian Aid's Analysis

As Scotland stands at a crossroads in its response to the climate crisis, this unprecedented step taken by the leaders of these communities to come together and urge people to acknowledge the risks of inaction and devise solutions is significant.

Together we can and must tackle the climate crisis for the sake of people in Scotland and those around the world. Floods, heatwaves, droughts, and extreme weather events are a stark reminder of this in the countries where Christian Aid works, many have done little to cause climate change but continue to pay the repair bill for [loss and damage](#).

In South Omo Ethiopia we are working alongside communities who are experiencing a devastating cycle of severe drought and heavy rains. More than 79,000 people have been affected, many of whom have been displaced due to loss of homes and livestock, as well as damage to critical infrastructure. Local organisations have determined what they need to address this loss and damage from climate change. They have undertaken work such as repairs to damaged infrastructure like boreholes and running re-training and job creation projects. This work has been funded by the Scottish Government's [Humanitarian Emergency Fund](#) grant to Christian Aid, you can read more about it and [hear from our Ethiopia Country Director Yitna Tekaligne](#).

Christian Aid's work in Ethiopia and elsewhere highlights that solving the climate crisis is fundamentally an urgent justice issue with many of those who have done little to cause climate change experiencing the worst effects of it, you can read more about this in our [2024 climate briefing](#).

As Christian Aid's work in South Omo demonstrates, the Scottish Government's funding for Loss and



caid.org.uk

Damage is a vital lifeline for those experiencing the worst effects of climate change, but this must go hand in hand with serious action to deliver emissions reductions at home.

Here at Christian Aid Scotland, we will continue to work with Scottish faith leaders and civil society, and advocate to the Scottish Government, UK Government and internationally for robust climate policy and action. Together we can make the changes needed to combat climate change.

What Can You Do?

There is real power in collective action, it makes a difference for your MSPs to know that people in their constituency care about the nature and climate crisis and that they want to see businesses, community groups, churches and the Scottish Government doing more.

- **You could write to your local MSP** to ask them stand up for bold climate action and you could send them a copy of the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland [manifesto of policies](#) aimed at the Scottish Government. You can use this briefing, our [February 2024 briefing](#) and the joint Scottish Fair Trade, Eco-Congregation Scotland and Christian Aid [Global Solidarity Resource](#) for information. And you can base your letter on our [new template letter](#).

Christian Aid will continue to work with Stop Climate Chaos Scotland over the coming weeks and months on actions that can be taken by individuals and churches to communicate with the Scottish Government on the need for rapid improvements to climate policies.

Further Information

Here are the reactions of [Christian Aid](#) and [Stop Climate Chaos Scotland](#) to the Scottish Government's announcement of dropping the 2030 emissions target.

If you want to learn more about the detail of the climate policy and political changes in Scotland in Spring 2024 then Stop Climate Chaos Scotland have created a very [helpful overview](#).

Contact Us

It would be helpful for us to know if you do contact your MSP as this helps inform our advocacy work. We are happy to help or answer any questions you have. You can also contact us if you would like to be kept informed about actions to take. You can contact Lucy le Roux our Campaigns and Advocacy Coordinator at 0131 220 1254 or Lleroux@christian-aid.org or scotlandcampaigns@christian-aid.org



caid.org.uk