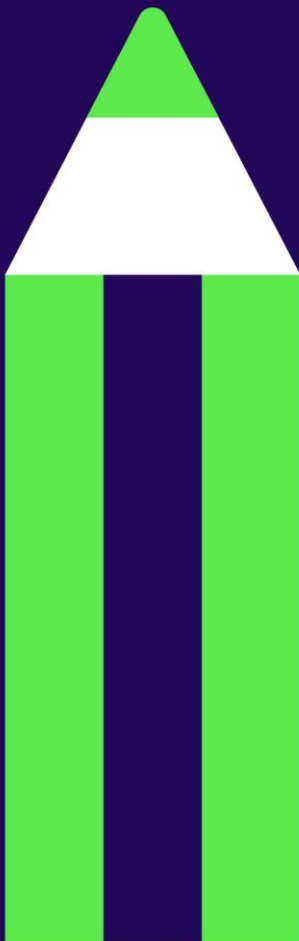
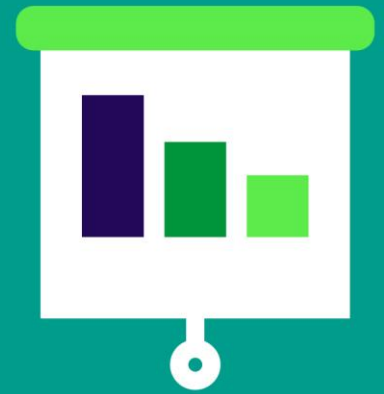


# The Climate Connection

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# Youth Voice on Climate Action

**Indonesia**

#TheClimateConnection  
[www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection](http://www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection)

# The Global Youth Letter on Climate Action is a call for action from young people globally, directly addressing the leaders attending COP26 – the 26th UN Climate Change Conference, in Glasgow, November 2021.

It is the result of a large-scale research exercise between the British Council and not for profit social enterprise Catalyst in Communities, who used a mixed methodology approach to garner the views, experiences and aspirations of 8,000 young people across 23 countries.

Aiming to be as representative as possible in terms of gender, background, location and socio-economic status, the research team worked through global COVID-19 restrictions to amplify the unheard voice of the climate debate: today's young people. Research for the report was carried out between January and March 2021.

The Global Youth Letter on Climate Action, and accompanying 8,000 Rising campaign, is part of the British Council's [The Climate Connection](#) programme, a global platform for dialogue, cooperation and action, connecting millions of people through shared solutions to the climate crisis.

**Read the Global Youth Letter on Climate Action, the research report and join in the 8,000 Rising campaign here:**

[www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection/get-involved/global-youth-letter](http://www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection/get-involved/global-youth-letter)

## Indonesia 's young people and climate action

The following letter and accompanying data represent the views and perspectives of young people in Indonesia.

It is a collective statement of all those who participated in the Global Youth Letter on Climate Action research in Indonesia and can be used as a starting point for leaders and policy makers to understand how to address young people's concerns in relation to climate change, and how they can use this untapped potential in to bring about climate action.

We hope the following letter inspires both young people and decision makers across Indonesia and beyond to work together to find sustainable solutions to climate action.



# Dear COP26 leaders,

Selamat siang! We, the young people of Indonesia, are here to share our aims and aspirations for the future of our country, and our planet.

We are made up of 17,508 islands, spanning one-eighth of the Earth's circumference. We are home to beaches, volcanoes and Komodo dragons. Our vast jungles contain the remaining elephants, orangutans and tigers. We also have a diverse culture and a special love for music and dance. And we want to safeguard this for future generations.

Those of us who contributed to this collective statement represent the unheard voice in the climate conversation. We are both male and female, and we represent Indonesia's many ethnicities, languages and belief systems. We are from both rural and urban areas, and have different levels of education and employment.

And 90 per cent of us are deeply concerned about climate change, so we are here to collectively call for climate action!

## How climate change affects us

More than 35 per cent of us have already experienced severe flooding at some point in our lifetime, and we see our forests dwindling much too quickly.

The three main effects of climate change we see are:

1. disturbed rainfall patterns
2. dry season (frequent/severe)
3. loss of forest covers.

By participating in this research, we have become more familiar with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and better informed about COP26.

For us, the three most important Sustainable Development Goals are:

1. SDG 4: Quality Education
2. SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being
3. SDG 2: Zero Hunger

It's no coincidence that we value education above all else, as building our skills and knowledge is the key to addressing climate change challenges in Indonesia

## Our commitment to climate action

Nearly 90 per cent of us believe young people have a key role in climate action. Just as many of us social media is a good source of information, and young people working across different sectors are beginning to tap into their skills to speak up for climate action.

However, just a quarter of us have ever participated in climate awareness exercises, and even less have engaged in mitigation actions. And this needs to change if we are to reduce the impacts of climate change.



With climate change impacting everybody's lives, we realise that policy makers and civil society organisations can't deal with the problem alone. We are prepared to share our opinions and aspirations for stopping climate change, if those in power are prepared to listen.

## What we demand from our leaders

Leaders and policy makers, you are asking you to include us in meaningful ways, so together we can develop sustainable climate solutions!

We need your help to remove hurdles to participation, which include:

- limited or no youth engagement opportunities offered by the government
- insufficient role of the media in creating awareness
- limited or no community-level initiatives to engage youth in climate action.

We, as a diverse group, are prepared to act, and are more than committed to lead action on climate change in our communities. But we can't do it alone, and neither can you. But you do have the power to 'mainstream' youth climate action and to engage us in meaningful ways. You can better prepare us, by giving broad access to knowledge and skills, by improving educational awareness on climate change, either through schools or social media platforms, by allowing us to contribute to policy making, and by drawing on our potential through within climate mitigation and adaptation interventions in our communities.

Through education and collaboration, we can work together on solutions, and young people in Indonesia can act as anchors for collective climate stewardship, to become a symbol of hope for others around the world. We are the last generation that can end climate change, and that is our unified and clear message to you.

## Our voices

*'Leaders should stand firm in making decisions to minimise climate change. They should immediately take action to stop financing new fossil fuel projects. Government should strengthen co-operation between countries in terms of carrying out forest planting on a large scale, reducing the use of greenhouse gases, making pro-climate policies and undertaking socialisation of climate mitigation efforts and encourage people to care about the environment.'* **Female voice**

*'The climate change issue is overly complex; we need to make young people feel more empowered'* **Female voice**

*'Young people need to be given the chance to participate in climate related activities and campaigns'* **Rural, female voice**

## Our parting message

Leaders, you should commit to making decisions to tackle climate change. You should raise awareness about greenhouse gases and deforestation. And you should engage us through education and social media. We need you to strengthen co-operation between countries and also between communities, and to include and consult us in plans and actions to address the major environmental challenges facing our country, and our planet.

