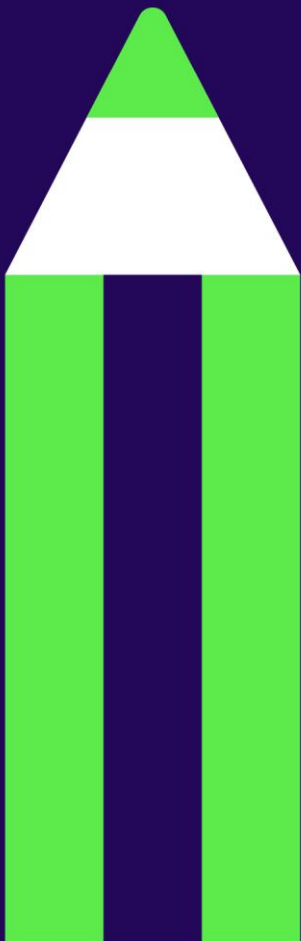
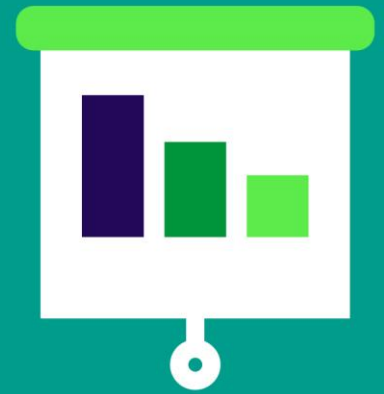


The Climate Connection



Youth Voice on Climate Action

Nepal

#TheClimateConnection
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

Nepal's young people and climate action

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

It is a collective statement of all those who participated in the Global Youth Letter on Climate Action research in Nepal 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 Nepal and beyond to work together to find sustainable solutions to climate action.



Dear COP26 leaders,

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

We are situated on the southern slopes of the Himalayan mountain range. We are a small landlocked country with a diverse range of ethnicities and religions. With Tibet, we share the tallest mountain on earth, Mount Everest, which reaches 8,849 metres above sea level. We are proud of our natural habitat, which is why we want to safeguard it for future generations.

Those who contributed to this collective statement represent the unheard voice in the climate conversation. One-third of us is female, and we are predominately from urban and peri-urban areas. We come from all walks of life, with varying degrees of education and employment.

Whatever our differences, 89 per cent of us are deeply concerned about climate change, and we are here to collectively call for climate action!

How climate change affects us

Across the lowland marshes and the highland areas, we are feeling the effects of climate change, and 75 per cent of us believe climate change is impacting our lives.

The three main effects of climate change we see are:

1. depletion of freshwater resources
2. disturbed rainfall patterns
3. decreased agriculture productivity.

By participating in this research, we've 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 13: Climate Change
2. SDG 4: Quality Education
3. SDG 1: No Poverty

As you can see, climate action is our number one priority!

Our commitment to climate action

With climate change impacting everyone, we know that policy makers and civil society organisations can't deal with the problem alone. Which is why more than 86 per cent of us believe that we, young people, can play a key role in climate action in Nepal, and nearly 70 per cent of us are confident that we have the language and communication skills to address issues associated with climate change in our communities.

However, just 46 per cent of us have participated in climate awareness exercises, while many of us have never participated in climate mitigation activities. This needs to change if we are to reduce the impact of climate change.



What we demand from our leaders

Leaders and policy makers, we need you to include us in meaningful ways.

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

- limited or no youth engagement opportunities offered by government
- little or no access to knowledge resources
- insufficient role of the media in creating awareness.

We, as a diverse group, are prepared to act, but we cannot do this 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 provide us with climate communication and advocacy training and climate-focused active citizenship programmes, and you can develop online and social media campaigns to build further momentum around combatting climate change.

Through education and collaboration, together we can develop sustainable climate solutions. We can become anchors for collective climate stewardship within Nepal, and a symbol of hope for others around the world, but only if you include us in plans and actions to address the major environmental challenges facing our country and our planet.

Our voices

'We are the reason for exploiting nature, and we must look at ourselves and take responsibility on an individual level.' **Rural voice**

'The youth need to be equipped with more knowledge about climate change in order to participate more in matters regarding climate change.' **Female voice**

'Stop pollution, deforestation, cut CO₂ emissions from vehicles, lower plastic production, use more solar energy and biodegradable energy, let's stop climate change!' **Female voice**

'Provide opportunities, not only for literate people, but for those who have the capability and the power to think more creatively. Change the curriculum to include more extracurricular (climate change) activities.' **Female voice**

Our parting message

Our world is diverse, but people use this diversity to differentiate from each other – instead of focusing on the wealth of talent and potential for innovation and creativity this diversity offers. The Earth is not just for humans, but for all living species. The concept of growing oneself, without the development of the other, is not sustainable, and will lead to war. Judging all activities and tasks in terms of monetary value leads to humans being inhumane.

