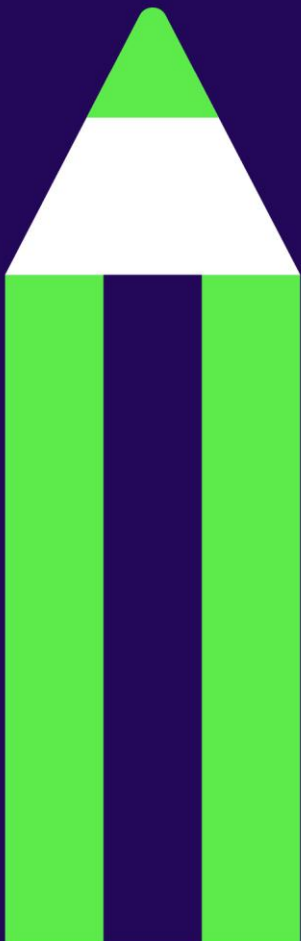
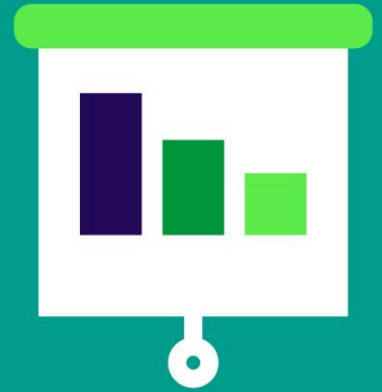


The Climate Connection



Youth Voice on Climate Action

Pakistan

#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

Pakistan's young people and climate action

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

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



Dear COP26 leaders,

As-Salam-o-Alaykum. We, the young people of Pakistan, are here to share our aims and aspirations for the future of our country, and our planet.

Pakistan is home to one of the world's highest mountain ranges, and our ecosystem and habitats are diverse, from the Arabian sea in the south to K-2 in the north. We host a broad array of species and have some of the most outstanding eco-regions in the world. And we want to safeguard this for future generations.

Those who contributed to this collective statement represent the unheard voice in the climate conversation. We represent all genders, some of us have disabilities, and some are from ethnic minorities.

We come from all corners of Pakistan, and we are deeply concerned about climate change, which is why we are here to collectively call for climate action!

How climate change affects us

From the city centres to the vast countryside, we mainly learn about climate change from the TV. In more urban areas, we also tend to rely on social media for information. But you only need to look out the window to see the effects of climate change, and more than 74 per cent of us feel it is already 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 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 1: No Poverty
2. SDG 4: Quality Education
3. SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being

Our commitment to climate action

Nearly 76 per cent of us feel we have the skills to address climate change in Pakistan. Yet just ten per cent of us have participated in climate awareness exercises and even less have engaged in mitigation actions. That needs to change if we are to reduce the impact of climate change.



With climate change rapidly impacting everybody's lives, most of us realise that policy makers and civil society organisations can't deal with the problem alone. So we are asking you to include us in meaningful ways, so together we can develop sustainable climate solutions!

What we demand from our leaders

Leaders and policy makers, we need your help to remove hurdles to participation, which include:

- limited or no access to knowledge resources
- limited or no tutoring on climate and related issues at educational institutes
- insufficient role of media in creating awareness.

We, as a diverse group, are prepared to act, but we can't do it alone, and neither can you. But you do have the power to 'mainstream' youth climate action. You can better prepare us by giving us broader access to knowledge and skills, by allowing us to contribute to policy making, and by drawing on our potential within climate mitigation and adaptation interventions in Pakistan.

Through education and collaboration, together we can find solutions, young people in Pakistan can become a symbol of hope for others around the world, but only if you include and consult us in plans and actions to address the major environmental challenges facing our country, and our planet.

Our voices

'Unemployment, poverty and climate change are key issues facing our country, and only through education can we begin to tackle them.' **Female, unemployed voice**

'Climate change has caused harsh weather conditions in Pakistan but there is insufficient information on social media as to how we can stop it.' **Rural voice.**

'Through the power of social media, they could influence others and be a role model in the fight against climate change.' **Female voice.**

'Work on local issues and work with a collaborative team on programmes that promote effective change in society.' **Female voice.**

'They could take on a role of awareness and represent their local communities and the voice of the youth to show the importance of stopping climate change.' **Rural voice.**

Our parting message

Climate change is happening right before our eyes. Our country is already seeing the real effects of it through the changing of weather patterns and seasons. Only by learning about what is happening can we begin to plan ahead and mitigate any future climate disasters. We must act now, before it is too late.

