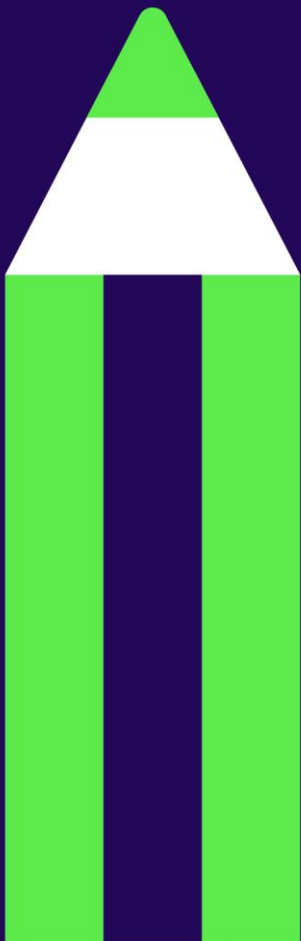


The Climate Connection



Youth Voice on Climate Action

Turkey

#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

Turkey's young people and climate action

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

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



Dear COP26 leaders,

Merhaba!

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

Throughout history, we've drawn upon influences from all over the world to create our unique culture. We are also blessed with outstandingly beautiful and diverse landscapes. And we want to safeguard this for future generations.

Those who contributed to this letter represent unheard voices in the climate conversation. We are from all sections of the society and come from all corners of Turkey, and we are deeply concerned about climate change. So, we are here to collectively call for climate action!

How climate change affects us

From the northern mountain ranges to our coastal towns and cities, climate change is affecting our daily lives. In fact, 95 per cent of us believe that climate change is one of the biggest threats facing our country.

The main effects of climate change we see are:

- decreasing water resources
- drought/heatwaves
- severe dry season
- food security.

By participating in the British Council global research, we've become more familiar with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and better informed about COP26. Climate change is an issue that links to many of the Sustainable Development Goals and is one of the biggest threats to our country's future. And, as we are continuing to experience even more extreme weather conditions, it is having a very real impact on our lives today.

So we're here to tell you how we'd like to work together to find solutions.

Our commitment to climate action

With climate change impacting everybody's lives, we are aware that decision makers can't deal with the problem without including all segments of the society. Which is why more than 85 per cent of us believe that we, young people, can play a key role in climate action.

We want to be included in the climate conversation and need meaningful spaces for our active participation. 71 per cent of us have never even participated in a climate awareness event or activity. This needs to change.

What we ask from our leaders

We ask our leaders and policy makers to include us in meaningful ways, so together we can develop sustainable climate solutions. We need help to:



- create youth participation opportunities to help solve this critical issue
- include lessons on climate topics at schools
- have more local initiatives to involve young people in climate action.

As a diverse group, we are willing 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 improving access to knowledge and skills and include us by inviting us to contribute to policy development. In return, you can benefit by drawing on our potential to encourage climate mitigation and adaptation interventions in Turkey.

Through education and collaboration, together we can develop sustainable climate solutions. Young people in Turkey are committed to taking action on climate change in their communities, and we dream of becoming symbols of hope for others around the world, but this can only happen if you include us in plans and actions to address the major environmental challenges facing our country, and our planet.

Quotes

Here is what some of us said:

'The most important message that students should convey on this issue is that politicians cannot decide on climate change by themselves. Young people need to play an active role in climate policy in the future.'

'The government and the people should work together to find solutions to this global issue.'

'We don't have time to sit on our hands as our planet burns. Young people have to get active and fight climate change. It's life or death.'

'We need to know more about how climate change works in Turkey; education is key.'

'We must leave the natural heritage that we have taken for future generations to enjoy – just as we have – and work together for a better future.'

'Climate change threats will increase their impact in the coming years.'

Our parting message

The voices of young people need to be heard. Through greater youth involvement, Turkey can transform itself into a greener and more sustainable society.

