

# The Climate Connection

---



# Youth Voice on Climate Action

**Bangladesh**

#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)

## Bangladesh's young people and climate action

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

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



## Dear COP26 leaders,

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

Bangladesh is a riverine nation. From the Bay of Bengal to the delta plains of the Ganges, we have diverse natural habitats and a rich and vibrant culture. 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 are male and female, some of us have disabilities, and some are from ethnic minorities.

From all corners of Bangladesh, we are all deeply concerned about climate change, so we are here to collectively call for climate action!

### How climate change affects us

Across our rural and urban areas, we mainly learn about climate change online, via social networks. TV is also still an important source of information. But you only need to look outside the window to see the effects of climate change, and more than 95 per cent of us feel it is already impacting our lives.

The three main effects of climate change we see are:

1. Decreased agriculture productivity
2. Depletion of freshwater resources
3. Disturbed rainfall patterns.

Through this consultation process, we have become more familiar with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and better informed about COP26. And we are here to show you how we can work together to find solutions.

### Our commitment to climate action

While 70 per cent of us believe we have the skills to address climate change, less than half of us have participated in climate awareness exercises, and even fewer have engaged in mitigation actions. That needs to change if we are to reduce the impact of climate change. With climate change impacting everybody's lives, we realise that that policy makers and civil society organisations can't deal with the problem alone. So we are asking leaders and policy makers to include us in meaningful ways, so together we can develop sustainable climate solutions!

### What we demand from our leaders

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



- insufficient role of media in creating awareness
- limited or no youth engagement opportunities offered by government
- limited or no tutoring at educational institutes

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 Bangladesh.

Through education and collaboration, together we can find solutions, and the young people of Bangladesh 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

*'Climate events are taking place right now, but our message remains the same. We need to change our perspectives and nurture change from the youth, as they are the future leaders.'*

**Rural voice**

*'Young people need to be given platforms to communicate their knowledge and concerns about climate change. We need to know more about how it can affect us in the future. So, through these communication channels, the youth can begin to make plans and come together for climate action.'* **Female voice.**

*'It's important to share climate change information on every social media platform and joining awareness programmes.'* **Female voice.**

*'Solutions include preserving water, driving a fuel-efficient vehicles and reducing everyday household energy use.'* **Female voice.**

*'We need to undertake small community activities like picking up waste, planting trees and discouraging the use of plastics.'* **Rural voice.**

## Our parting message

People know about climate change, but little action is happening. So programmes and initiatives that involve the young generations directly, and which give us a voice, should be prioritised. Most importantly, we should encourage the continued participation of young people in climate action, so it becomes common practice.

