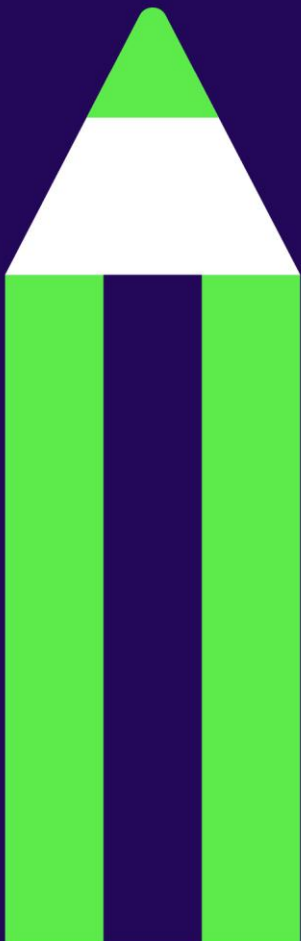
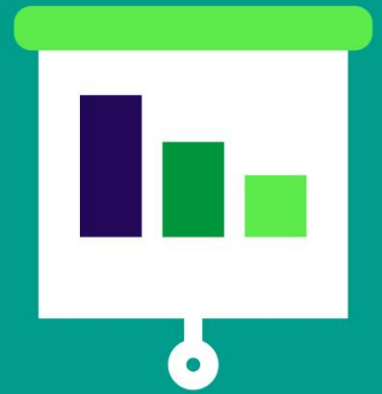


The Climate Connection



Youth Voice on Climate Action

The Philippines

#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

The Philippines' young people and climate action

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

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



Dear COP26 leaders,

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

We comprise 7,107 small islands, making us the second-largest archipelago in the world. We have wonderful natural landscapes, from active volcanoes to serene beaches and coastlines. And we want to safeguard our beautiful country for future generations.

Those who contributed to this collective statement represent the unheard voice in the climate conversation. Three-quarters of us are female, and just over 50 per cent are from rural areas. We are from all corners of the Philippines and have different levels of education and employment.

Yet, 95 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

From the north to the south, we are starting to feel the effects of climate change, and more than 90 per cent of us already feel it is impacting our lives.

The three main effects of climate change we see are:

1. decreased agriculture productivity
2. dry seasons (frequent/severe)
3. disturbed rainfall patterns.

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 4: Quality Education
2. SDG 1: No Poverty
3. SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being.

What's more, about a quarter of us believe climate change will be the biggest threat to our country in the future, so we are here to show you how we can work together to find solutions.

Our commitment to climate action

While 77 per cent of us believe we have the skills to address climate change, we also know that young people have, far too often, been ignored, and any meaningful spaces for 'active participation' are closed. Only 60 per cent of us have ever participated in a climate change awareness session, and this needs to change if we are to really reduce the impact of climate change.

With climate change impacting everybody's lives, we know that policy makers and civil society organisations can't deal with the problem alone. Which is why they need to be more proactive and include us in meaningful ways, so, together, we can develop sustainable climate solutions!

What we demand from our leaders

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

- little or no access to knowledge resources



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

As a diverse group, we are more than committed to act and to lead on climate action, but we can't do this alone, and neither can you. But you do have the power to 'mainstream' youth climate action, to increase access to knowledge and skills development through social media and other platforms and to provide opportunities for young people to co-develop and sustain climate solutions.

Together, the young people of the Philippines can become 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

'One of the key challenges that young people face today is our voices not being heard. Adults would often not listen to our suggestions or take us seriously due to our age.' **Rural voice**

'Above all, she/he can educate the people that every single step that they make in destroying our planet will have a huge impact to put our world in danger.' **Female voice**

'Climate change is expected to displace millions of people and scientists worry that we may be pushing the planet toward ecological collapse. Today, we're proud to say that planting trees is one of the best solutions we have to fight climate change and deforestation, while saving lives at the same time.' **Female voice**

'People don't understand that climate change is already happening. It's important to talk about it and spread true information to combat it now.' **Unemployed voice**

'All young people must be aware of climate change, because some didn't take this issue seriously. Awareness is very important; ignorance will lead us to a dangerous situation in the future. Youth should join or be involved in environmental groups or environmental activities.' **Rural voice**

'The critical challenges that youth face in our country right now include striving to make our voices heard and to break stereotypes, especially around mental health, where there is an immense stigma. Older groups tend to invalidate the opinions of the younger generation, but we are constantly advocating and educating others, especially the older generation, who are uninformed about this issue.' **Female voice**

Our parting message

We need world leaders who are willing to listen to young people. We could do so much more with the proper encouragement, support and recognition, so let's keep pushing for a brighter future.

