

# Quakers in Britain Climate Justice briefing for MPs

October 2024

Quakers are committed to equality and sustainability. The climate crisis is a grave situation affecting us all, but it does not affect us all equally. The poorest people in the UK and around the world, who have done the least to cause the crisis, are hardest hit by climate breakdown. By taking more robust action on the climate crisis, we could both alleviate the cost-of-living crisis at home and meet our international climate finance obligations



## Making polluters pay

UK-based fossil fuel giants are making billions of pounds in profits while polluting our environment. We welcome the government's commitment to introduce an effective windfall tax but ask MPs from all parties to advocate for a more comprehensive range of measures to **ensure big polluters pay the true cost of the loss and damage they are causing**. This money could be used to fund a just transition in the UK and to meet our international climate finance obligations

There are a number of ways in which responsibility to pay for pollution could be shifted to bigger polluters, as set out in reports by the [Quaker United Nations Office](#), [Greenpeace](#), [Christian Aid](#) and [Oxfam](#). These include a climate damages tax, a net wealth tax or a frequent flyer tax.

## Loss and damage

People around the world are suffering the effects of climate-induced loss and damage. This includes fast events like people's homes being destroyed by wildfires, and slow events such as rising seas covering ancestral lands.

At the UN climate talks COP26 and COP27, countries including the UK agreed to set up a Loss and Damage Fund to help people rebuild. **We now need the UK government to set out how it will contribute its fair share to the Loss and Damage Fund and raise new and additional money to contribute to the fund, rather than taking it out of existing aid budgets.**

Quakers are also keen to ensure that issues arising from the climate crisis are tackled at their root, rather than reacted to through militarised responses such as increased border controls.

## A UK just transition

We need to shift the UK economy away from fossil fuels and into clean energy. We welcome the government's commitments to expanding renewable energy but planned investment in the economic transition falls significantly short of the scale required. The [National Infrastructure Commission](#) estimates for infrastructure alone, £30 billion per year public sector investment is needed until 2040.

**Money raised from taxing big polluters should be used to help the poorest people first, by providing affordable renewable energy, home insulation and sustainable transport.**

People across the UK must be involved in decision-making to ensure our economic transition does not replicate the same patterns of social inequality, and people working in fossil fuel-based industries must be supported to retrain into other high quality, secure and well-paid jobs.

*We look forward to working with you on these issues. To follow up please contact us at [politics@quaker.org.uk](mailto:politics@quaker.org.uk).*