



faith
for the
climate



David Lammy MP

Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs

King Charles St, London SW1A 2AH

29 October 2024

Dear David Lammy,

This week, people from different faith traditions and communities across Britain are gathering for reflection, worship and vigils. We are gathering to bear witness to our concern for the **unjust burden of climate-induced Loss and Damage that people across the world are suffering**. Together, we are **asking the UK Government to Make Polluters Pay**.

Our message, inspired by the imperative to preserve all life and ensure justice, is simple: **if the new Labour Government is serious about restoring the UK's role as a leader on climate action among wealthy nations, you must put into practice the Polluter Pays principle**. This means making the heaviest polluters pay for the Loss and Damage their activities have caused.

As the next UN climate talks at COP29 approach, we call on you to:

1. **Put in place polluter pays measures to generate new public finance in a fair way.**
2. **Champion an ambitious, fair, and needs-based new collective quantified goal (NCQG) for climate finance for developing countries. This should include ensuring there is sufficient funding built in to respond to Loss and Damage.**
3. **Contribute the UK's fair share – through new and additional funding in the form of grants not loans – to the international Loss and Damage Fund.**

Our call to Make Polluters Pay is partly about our history. **When we factor in Britain's colonial past, the UK is the fourth largest contributor to climate change**. It is also about our present. Two of the world's largest fossil fuel majors (Shell and BP) are based in the UK, enjoying subsidies and record-breaking profits. Meanwhile, many British households are struggling to heat their homes. At the same time, communities all around the world are being devastated by extreme weather events, such as flooding, super storms and forest fires. These inequalities need to be redressed, to acknowledge the intrinsic value of every living being on our precious and finite earth.

The money is there, but at the moment it is concentrated in the hands of the wealthy, who are also responsible for the highest emissions. That is why we call for raising new funding by taxing pollution and wealth, rather than repurposing official development assistance. **Our faith**

traditions tell us that a fair solution requires that wealthy polluters repay their debt to the communities who are facing the worst effects of the climate crisis.

Our beliefs also teach us **that true safety can only come from tackling the root causes of the climate crisis.** We welcome recent UK Government statements recognising the significance of the crisis and how climate change is interlinked with economic stability and security. However, we urge you to address this by raising urgently needed climate finance and by making our society more equal.

Last month, the Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Mottley reminded world leaders that what we need is transformation. **The “world cannot continue in the shadow of an old imperial order that does not see countries, does not feel countries, does not hear countries, and worse does not see, feel or hear people.”**

As representatives of thousands of people in diverse faith and belief traditions across the UK – with millions more in our families and communities around the world – we urge you to show the rest of the world that this is no longer true of the UK.

At COP29, we ask you to see, feel and hear our call and that of countless communities facing chaos, destruction and death as our climate breaks down. No matter which doctrine or tradition we come from, or where in the world we are, each of us shares a desire to care for and repair our planet and to build a safe, liveable future for all.

We are praying for and upholding you to do the right thing, before it's too late. It's time to ensure the UK – and the heaviest polluters – pay our fair share.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, **Quakers in Britain**

Dr Shanon Shah, Director, **Faith for the Climate**

Olivia Fuchs, **Eco Dharma Network**, Coordinator

Avnish Thakrar, **Hindu Climate Action** (National Coordinator)

Canon Giles Goddard, Chair, **Faith for the Climate** and Vicar, **St John's Waterloo** (Church of England)

Alexandra Wright, Senior Rabbi, The **Liberal Jewish Synagogue** and President of **Liberal Judaism**

Mr Mandip Singh Sohal, Trustee, **Khalsa Jatha British Isles, Central Gurdwara**

Mike Stygal, Interfaith Manager, **Pagan Federation**

Mr Parasbhai Meisheri, Trustee, **Jain Network**

Bishop John Arnold, **Bishop of Salford** (Roman Catholic)

Imam Dr Sayed Razawi, Chief Imam and Director General, **Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society**

Jamie Cresswell-Director, **Centre for Applied Buddhism**

Canon Guy Wilkinson CBE, Secretary, **Faith for the Climate**, and former interfaith advisor to the **Archbishop of Canterbury**

Right Reverend Olivia Graham, Former **Bishop of Reading** (Church of England)

Colette Joyce, **Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster**, Justice and Peace Co-ordinator

Osai Ojigho, Director of Policy and Public Campaigns, **Christian Aid**

Prof. Husna Ahmad, Trustee, **Faith for the Climate**, and CEO, **Global One 2015**

Revd Dr Darrell Hannah, Chair, **Operation Noah**

Justine Marchant, **SGI-UK**, General Director

Sharon Moughtin, Vicar of **St Mary's Eco Church**

George Dow, Chair, **Green Christian**