

# MAKE POLLUTERS PAY ACTION DAY



**SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER**

## Holding a demonstration



**Make Polluters Pay Action Day will see people across the UK call on the UK Prime Minister to urgently make polluting industries pay up for climate induced loss and damage.**

**This UK guide explains more about loss and damage and outlines how to hold a demonstration.**

### What is loss and damage?

Rising global temperatures, caused by greenhouse gas emissions are driving the climate crisis. It's leading to more frequent and severe climate disasters. These climate disasters are happening on a scale so large that communities don't have the resources to adapt, causing them to experience loss and damage. Losses are things which can never be replaced like loss of lives, livelihoods and culture. While damage, such as to homes, roads and schools can be repaired, but it takes resources.

**In 2022 more than 1,700 people died due to the floods in Pakistan. And in 2023 over half a million people were displaced in Malawi after their homes were damaged by Cyclone Freddy.**

The climate crisis is impacting us all, but those most affected are communities in the global south, who have done the least to cause it.

When climate disasters strike it's affected communities who lead the response. They rebuild their homes, plant new crops and make up for lost income. They pay the bill for loss and damage.

Meanwhile those responsible for the climate crisis, like fossil fuel corporations, continue to make vast profits from their polluting industry, and turn their backs on the loss and damage they've caused.

**In 2022 the combined total profits of BP, ExxonMobil, Shell and Total Energies was \$159.5 billion.**

### What is the solution?

As well as doing all we can to limit temperature rises to minimise future loss and damage, we must make those most responsible pay for loss and damage too.

Thanks to the powerful demands of countries and campaigners in the Global South, in 2022 governments agreed to create an international Loss and Damage Fund. But right now, the fund is empty.

Those most responsible need to pay into the fund now. In doing so it could allow affected communities to access money to support their recovery, and show that big polluters must take responsibility for their climate destroying actions. But the profit driven actions of big polluters show they won't do this willingly.

**Join in this Make Polluters Pay Action Day and call on the UK Prime Minister to urgently make polluters pay.**

**#MakePollutersPay**

# HOLDING A DEMONSTRATION



**A demonstration is a way to make visible the injustice of loss and damage. Whether you demonstrate with a few friends or as a larger community group, you'll be contributing to a host of activities pressuring the UK Prime Minister to make polluters pay.**

## What to do during your demonstration?

What you do is up to you, but below are some suggested things:

- **Welcome:** Allow a few minutes for people to arrive and then start by welcoming everyone.
- **Agenda and roles:** Share what you plan to do during your demonstration, including your route if you're marching. If you're more than a couple of people introduce anyone who has a specific role such as a route guide, wellbeing contact, public/police liaison, media link, and photographer/videographer.
- **Speeches:** Personal stories are a powerful way to help people relate to an issue. Invite a few people to share about how they found out about loss and damage, what struck them about it and why they think polluters should pay. Try to have a range of voices, including those who don't usually speak, or those who have personal experience of loss and damage. You could have someone

read a testimonial of a young adult from the global south- [caid.org.uk/l&d/videos](https://caid.org.uk/l&d/videos)

- **Silence:** Moments of silence give an opportunity for people to personally reflect on the injustice of loss and damage and their role in bringing change. It's also visually powerful in a busy location.
- **Singing:** This can be both a powerful communal experience for those joining in and capture the attention of people passing by. To help people sing it's a good idea to have copies of the words and pick songs/tunes they know. You can find a collection of various protest songs at- <https://xrsongs.org/pdf/>
- **March:** A march allows you to visit a few locations, giving you the opportunity to highlight your message with a larger range of people. If you plan to march you are required by law to inform the police, there's more information on this later.
- **Closing:** At the end share how everyone can stay in contact, and thank people for coming.

**Impact:** If you're having speakers plan to have this in a location where they can be heard or use a PA in busy spaces, as you don't want their insights to be missed. You might want your demonstration to be visible to those passing, you could do this by making banners or placards with simple messages such as make polluters pay, or you could hand out flyers. You can find more on these resources in our comms pack at- <https://tinyurl.com/mppadla>

**Timing:** It's important to keep to your agreed time, we recommend planning for a demonstration no longer than 90 minutes in total to help keep it accessible.

## I don't know enough about loss and damage to hold a demonstration.

You don't need to know everything to hold a demonstration, but if you'd like more information you could:

- Watch Stamp Out Poverty's Loss and Damage- and Who Should Pay for It Video- <https://youtu.be/96wtZngITCQ>
- Read Christian Aid's 1 pager to learn more about where the money for the Loss and Damage Fund should come from- [caid.org.uk/mppmayreport](http://caid.org.uk/mppmayreport)

### Suggested Demonstration timeline

- Six weeks before: Confirm agenda, speakers, and route if marching.
- Four weeks before: Start promoting your demonstration.
- Three weeks before: Organise materials and equipment. Inform the police if your marching.
- The week before: Send out reminders and confirm demonstration roles.
- The week/ day of: Run through your plans and arrive early to set up.

## Where to hold your demonstration?

When deciding where to demonstrate consider if you want it to be visible by lots of people or by a particular person/group. Some potential locations could be a place linked to the political system such as your MP's office, somewhere linked to fossil fuels like a petrol station, or a prominent public space. With any location be aware of what's private and public land and make sure you have the right permission to be there.

To help make your demonstration accessible think about facilities at your location such as parking, toilets, places to sit and level ground. For more information on how to make your demonstration accessible visit- <https://tinyurl.com/lpaccessible>

Everyone has the right to peaceful protest, but if your demonstration involves a march you are required by [law](#) to inform the police

in writing at least 6 days before, in this include the date, time, route and contact details of the organiser(s). If your demonstration stays in one location you are not required by law to inform the police. For more on holding a demonstration and the police visit- <https://tinyurl.com/lppolice>

## When to hold your demonstration?

Make Polluters Pay Action Day is on Saturday 23 September. Don't worry if this doesn't work for your group – find a time and date that works for you.

## How can I invite people?

There are lots of simple ways to invite people to get involved, the key is to share why this is important and the impact they can make. Here's some ways to invite others:

- **Email lists:** Invite via email using existing lists such as members of worship communities, or draw up one yourself from friends and local networks.
- **Websites:** Share on local community group websites, and add to ours using the map- <https://tinyurl.com/mppadla>
- **Social media:** Create an event page on [Facebook](#) or [Eventbrite](#) and share on your own profile too.
- **Local media:** Contact your local newspapers, radio and TV stations as they're often interested in community action, they might even come along.
- **Posters:** Hand out posters, or put them up in busy spaces such as community centers, places of worship, your place of education or work.
- **Announcements:** Share about your demonstration in the notice section of a community meeting.
- **Speak to people:** Talk to friends, family and your wider community about it and ask them to pass it on.

To help with inviting others download our comms pack – <https://tinyurl.com/mppadla>

And if you're organising this as a group make sure you know who's contacting who and how.

## After your demonstration

**Thanks and follow up:** Thank those who attended and follow up with them about what's next. Also let others know what happened- here your pictures and videos will make a big impact.

- **Local media:** Increase the impact of your demonstration by sharing what happened with your local press. Christian Aid supporters in Irthlingborough put an article in their local paper about their fundraiser for Cyclone Freddy – their MP spotted it and wrote to them – you never know who's looking! You can use the template press release in the comms pack and providing a picture can help capture the moment. Find your local media outlets at [www.mediauk.com](http://www.mediauk.com)
- **Share on social media:** By posting your photos and or videos on your social media you'll spread the message about the injustice of loss and damage, also see if you can get others to share on theirs too. In our comms pack you'll find some template socials.
- **Let Make Polluters Pay know:** We'd love to know what you did, how many took part, and any follow up plans. We'll add it to our online gallery to celebrate your action, inspire others and show

politicians just how many people believe it's time to make polluters pay. Add #MPPAD to your social posts and you'll be added automatically, or email us at [office@makepolluterspay.co.uk](mailto:office@makepolluterspay.co.uk) Don't forget to share a picture if you have one.

**Political impact:** To make polluters pay for loss and damage we need our politicians on board. A great way to do this through your demonstration is to encourage people to contact their MP. You could do this via:

- **Letter:** At the end or after your demonstration you can ask people to sign a letter you've written to your local MP. Multiple signatories show it's an issue many people care about. In the comms pack you'll find an editable template MP letter. Before you send it why not include a photo from your demonstration so they can see who took part.
- **Email:** Ask people to sign the Make Polluters Pay online MP action, and remind them to mention the demonstration as this shows their MP a higher level of commitment than just this quick online action alone- <https://tinyurl.com/mppadmpe>

If you have already contacted your local MP you can use the opportunity of your demonstration to update them about your current activity and reply to their most recent response. Christian Aid have some 'what to say next' suggestions to some common MP replies at- [caid.org.uk/mppmpnext](http://caid.org.uk/mppmpnext)

Made by Make Polluters Pay, Christian Aid and Faith for the Climate in partnership with others.



**Disclaimer:** This guide offers only guidance on holding a demonstration, it isn't intended to be used as legal advice. For more on how to get legal advice visit- <https://tinyurl.com/libertylegal>

#MakePollutersPay