

What to say to your MP about climate change

Talking to your MP may seem a bit intimidating. Don't worry! MPs are there to listen to their constituents' concerns and you do not have to be an expert or a gifted public speaker to talk to them. You have every right to tell them what you think. Try to relax, and use your own words as much as possible, speaking from the heart.

Different MPs have different ways of meeting with constituents. Some have regular walk-in surgeries, others want you to book an appointment, and some will meet in person while others only meet online because of security fears caused by attacks on MPs in recent years. Jesuit Missions can help you make contact with your MP, so if you have any doubts, just ask us.

Once you know when and where you are going to talk to your MP, it is good to prepare carefully. Please pray for wisdom and guidance from God. Think about the issues and try to discern what you yourself honestly think about them. *But also bear in mind our request to you, that you put to your MP the calls which the Jesuits and other religious orders are making to governments about what needs to be done. Make sure the MP knows that you are involved with the Church – this will let them know that there are others who agree with you. Even better, take a group of parishioners to see the MP at the same time!*

What the Jesuits are doing

Jesuit Missions is part of a global Jesuit campaign on climate change called Jesuits for Climate Justice. This is co-ordinated from Rome by the Jesuits' Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat. We are now working with other religious orders in a campaign called 'Religious Life for Climate Justice: Turning Hope Into Action.'

Jesuits have been working with others to encourage agreements by governments to take the actions necessary to limit the warming of the Earth's atmosphere and the consequent damaging changes to the planet's climate.

One focus of Jesuit activity has been the annual United Nations climate talks known as 'COP' climate talks. 'COP' stands for Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. These talks take place each November. The next talks, COP30 (the 30th Conference of the Parties) will take place from 10 to 21 November in Belem, Brazil. Jesuits will be there.

Jesuits for Climate Justice have produced a Statement along with others involved in Religious Life for Climate Justice which you can read at <https://www.ecojesuit.com/cop30/>. It contains four calls:

1. Cancel the debts of poor countries, as unjust and unpayable debts should not compromise resources for climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

2. Strengthen the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) by allocating sufficient resources to tackle the severe effects of climate change.

3. Set clear targets for a fair energy transition that aims to reduce CO2 emissions, considering historical responsibilities, respecting human rights—especially Indigenous rights—, valuing and protecting nature, and prioritizing sustainable livelihoods over profit-driven models.

4. Set clear goals to develop a global food system based on food sovereignty and agroecological practices; one that promotes culturally adapted methods for production, transformation, distribution, and food consumption.

It is these calls that we would like you to put across to your MP. We would like MPs to call on their Political Parties and on the UK Government to support these calls during the COP30 talks in Brazil.

- Without funding, poorer countries have little hope of making the changes necessary to lessen climate chaos and adapt to unavoidable changes.
- Without reductions in carbon emissions, the problem will continue to get much worse.
- Without care, the changes necessary to reduce carbon emissions may cause social injustice or destroy ecosystems if minerals for low-carbon energy or transport are mined without thought for the damage that such mining can do.
- Without changes to our food system, environmental damage and global heating will worsen and control over our food will be concentrated in fewer hands.

If you would like more information about the Religious Life for Climate Justice calls, download the 10-page briefing at <https://www.ecojesuit.com/cop30/>.

Background to the Jesuit involvement in this campaign can be found at <https://www.ecojesuit.com/how-is-the-participation-of-the-society-of-jesus-in-the-cop30-process/>.

If you would like to know more about our call for debt cancellation, see <https://jesuitmissions.org.uk/debt-cancellation-information/>.

If you have any questions, please contact Richard Solly, Jesuit Missions' Campaigns and Advocacy Officer, by phoning 020 8946 0466 or emailing richard@jesuitmissions.org.uk.