

# Climate justice - cribsheet

## Key things to know about climate justice in this general election year



### 1 The climate crisis is unjust

The effects of global heating continue to impact the poorest and most vulnerable communities around the world. Over the last few years, we've seen climate disasters increase dramatically. In 2023, floods devastated communities in Pakistan, wildfires devoured homes in Greece and Cyclone Freddy killed over 1,000 people in Malawi. In every disaster, people living in poverty suffer the most.

### 2 The UK should take responsibility

- Alongside others, the UK holds responsibility for causing the climate crisis. **Yet our political leaders are falling short in taking the necessary action to address its damaging effects.**
- As a historical polluter and one of the world's largest emitters of carbon dioxide, the UK has a duty to bring greenhouse gas emissions down to net zero quickly. Yet despite its 2019 groundbreaking legislation on getting to net zero, the UK is well off course.

- The UK Government has pledged to provide financial support, termed 'climate finance' to lower income countries. But the amounts are woefully inadequate and the pledges only partially met.
- The money that has been provided has come from raiding the aid budget. Furthermore, it is often in the form of loans which must be repaid with interest. **Countries like Malawi are being asked to bear the costs of a crisis they did not cause.**
- **In addition, on the global stage, trust in climate talks is hanging by a thread.** Countries like the UK must urgently demonstrate how climate finance will be delivered at scale.

### 3 Polluters should pay

- All the while, the likes of Shell and BP are earning eye-watering profits from fossil fuels – the biggest cause of the climate crisis. These companies are literally profiting on the backs of people living in poverty.
- The UK could raise money to fund climate action without impacting the average UK household. The UK could choose to tax the UK's wealthiest and most polluting companies – but it hasn't!



# Pay up for climate justice



## What to call for

Christian Aid is calling on the next UK Government to put tackling the climate crisis at the heart of any future government agenda. **It must support climate vulnerable communities and build trust on the global stage,** for example, by:

- Significantly increasing funding (in the form of grants, not loans) to support climate vulnerable countries to adapt, mitigate and respond when climate disasters strike – this is in addition to existing UK aid.
- Taxing the vast profits of fossil fuel companies to help provide this funding.
- Halting all new oil and gas developments in the UK, and investing in good quality, secure green jobs.



**Whether in government or opposition, your future MP can play their part.**

**Talk to your general election candidates now.**

**More information:**  
**Read Christian Aid's manifesto in full –**  
**[caid.ie/manifesto24](https://caid.ie/manifesto24)**

**'Fossil fuels companies and the biggest polluting countries have the responsibility to pay for loss and damage.'**

**Vanessa Nakate, climate activist, Uganda**

