



Statement of Commitment: On the occasion of the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (CoP 26) Glasgow 2021

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We the Scottish Religious Leaders' Forum, are united as people of faith in protecting the dignity of human life and creation. We look forward, with others throughout the UK, to welcoming delegates, guests and pilgrims from around the world to Glasgow and Scotland, whether in person or online. We look forward to offering you our hospitality, solidarity and support, to listening to you, and to learning from the stories of your lives and your communities.

We understand the gravity of the situation; the impact of climate change around the world; the inequality of its effects and the critical importance of decisions made in this conference to take forward the agreement made in Paris in 2015 (CoP21).

We call for transformational change in our lives, our communities, our economies and our governments. We recognise that humanity has exploited the planet, causing climate change and that the burden of loss and damage falls most heavily on the poor, especially women and children. We call for care for each other and care of the earth to be the highest duty in all our lives.

As the Scottish Religious Leaders' Forum, **we commit** to respond to this challenge by:

- ❖ **Reflecting deeply** in prayer, meditation and worship to discern how to care for the earth and each other, and to encourage our respective communities to do the same
- ❖ **Making transformational change** in our own lives and in the lives of our communities through individual and collective action.
- ❖ **Being advocates for justice** by calling on governments, businesses and others who exercise power and influence to put into effect the Paris agreement; to make the transition to a just and green economy a priority; and to commit to science-based targets that are aligned with a healthy, resilient, zero-emissions future.

We recognise the enormity of this task, especially for rich countries whose models of production, consumption, development and waste have caused many of the current climate-related problems. We ask those who visit us from around the world, especially those from countries who experience the worst consequences of climate change, to guide us. We conclude with an excerpt from a traditional Scottish blessing and Gaelic greeting;

*And may the blessing of the earth be on you
Soft under your feet as you pass along the roads*

Ceud mìle fàilte
A hundred thousand welcomes

Religious Leaders Signatories

1. **Rt Revd Dr. Martin Fair**, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland
2. **Ravinder Kaur Nijjar**, Advisor Sikhs in Scotland and Chair of Religions for Peace UK Women of Faith Network
3. **Allan Forsyth**, Baha'i Office of Public Affairs (Scotland)
4. **Isadora Quay**, Baha'i Office of Public Affairs (Scotland)
5. **Lama Yeshe Losal Rinpoche**, Abbot of Kagyu Samye Ling Buddhist Centre
6. **Ani Lhamo**, Kagyu Samye Ling Buddhist Centre
7. **Bishop Brian McGee**, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, Chair of the Catholic Bishops' Committee for Interreligious dialogue
8. **Sr. Isabel Smyth**, Sisters of Notre Dame, and Secretary to the Catholic Bishops' Committee for Interreligious dialogue
9. **Imam Sayed Razawi**, Chief Imam and Director General, Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society
10. **Ameed Versace**, Climate Officer, Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society
11. **Revd Paul Whittle**, Moderator of The United Reformed Church National Synod of Scotland
12. **Imam Hassan Rabbani**, Imam of Zia-UI-Quran Mosque, Muslim Chaplain at Heriot-Watt University, Chair of Scottish Muslim Forum
13. **Revd Mark Slaney**, Chair of the Methodist Church in Scotland
14. **Madhu Jain**, Hindu Mandir Glasgow
15. **Acharya Ji Mishra**, Priest of Hindu Mandir Glasgow
16. **Most Rev Mark Strange**, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church
17. **Rev Bonnie Evans Hills**, convener Scottish Episcopal Church Interfaith Relations Committee
18. **Rabbi David Rose**, Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation
19. **Alan Kay**, Chair of Scottish Council of Jewish Communities
20. **Rabbi Moshe Rubin**, Giffnock and Newlands Hebrew Congregation, Senior Rabbi of Scotland
21. **Lindsay Taylor**, Muslim Council of Scotland and Chair of Interfaith Scotland
22. **Revd David Coleman**, Minister of the United Reformed Church and Chaplain to Eco-Congregations Scotland
23. **Shaykh Sohaib Saeed**, Al-Furqan Mosque
24. **Imam Sohail Ashfaque**, Blackhall Mosque
25. **Rev. George Whyte**, Principal Clerk to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland
26. **Imam Abdul Ghafoor**, Glasgow Central Mosque
27. **Jim Pym**, Religious Society of Friends General Meeting, Scotland
28. **Lieut-Colonel Carol Bailey**, Secretary for Scotland, The Salvation Army