

Exploring global solutions to the climate crisis that address the role of the military, and promote social and racial justice

In this booklet you will find the text of our Climate Justice exhibition that is being held to coincide with the United Nations Climate Change conference (COP26) in Glasgow in November 2021.

We focus on just a few aspects of the climate crisis, though we know that there is much, much more of great concern. We look at an issue currently ignored in international climate agreements and public debate, namely how the military (nuclear and non-nuclear) contributes to the climate crisis.

We advocate shifting priorities in ways that allow engineers, scientists, teachers, and campaigners the freedom to create truly just and sustainable societies that can work for everyone worldwide. We believe that finance to support those most affected by the climate crisis, and least responsible for creating it, has to be made available as promised.

We need to act now to protect our fragile planet if it is to continue to provide for us. Governments are not taking the responsibility that is necessary. The solutions we explore in the exhibition are people-centred as well as community and nature based. We invite you to engage with them. We offer suggestions of actions you can take and provide links to websites you can use as a starting point for addressing your concerns.

We hope that you will take time to view the exhibition in full. It is being shown at several locations around the UK and can also be seen on our website - wilpf.org.uk/climate-exhibition. For the latest information on exhibition locations, or if there is a location close to you where you would like to host the exhibition, please contact us at climate-exhibition@wilpf.org.uk.

The Climate Justice Team, WILPF-UK

CLIMATE JUSTICE? What's that?

Today we are in a climate crisis. We believe we need to tackle it in a way that is fair to everyone in the world. The UN Climate Change Conference, COP26, takes place in Glasgow from 31st October to 12th November 2021.

A report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) confirms that without immediate action the already “irreversible, unprecedented and inevitable” consequences of the global climate crisis will endanger the survival of humanity.

Rapid and drastic cuts in CO2 emissions are needed now. Frightening levels of extinction and habitat loss demand we address the ecological and climate crisis together. Communities standing up to protect the most diverse and climate-crucial regions of the world are under attack. In this exhibition we stand in solidarity with them and explore solutions that include creating enforceable laws to address the root causes of the climate crisis.

Who are we? The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) was established over 100 years ago by women determined to promote peace and address the root causes and legitimisation, of war and conflict. It has become a global organisation across all continents and recognises the close relationship between the environment, women's rights and peace. This exhibition has been put together by members of the UK section of WILPF.

Advancing peace and freedom for all, we believe we need to protect the right to life, livelihood, and a healthy environment for everyone, at the same time as we protect our planet. This requires that we redefine security and shift from 'militarised' security to 'human' security, promoting environmental, economic, social and racial justice.

One of the most powerful forces for change is women's activism

Watch a video about WILPF - tinyurl.com/nxpuc9t6

COP26 stated goals

Global Net Zero carbon by 2050

Adaptations to protect communities and habitats

Mobilisation of finance

Working together

Global solidarity is vital to establish just solutions so no-one is left behind. There can be no climate justice without social and racial justice. The role of militarism in its contribution to the current crises, as well as the threat from nuclear weapons, is ignored at our peril. We aim to show the links between climate change, environmental degradation and militarism and how the roles of the military and war contribute to the climate crisis and disproportionately impact the world's poorest, particularly women, girls, indigenous communities and minority groups, whose perspectives are often missing.

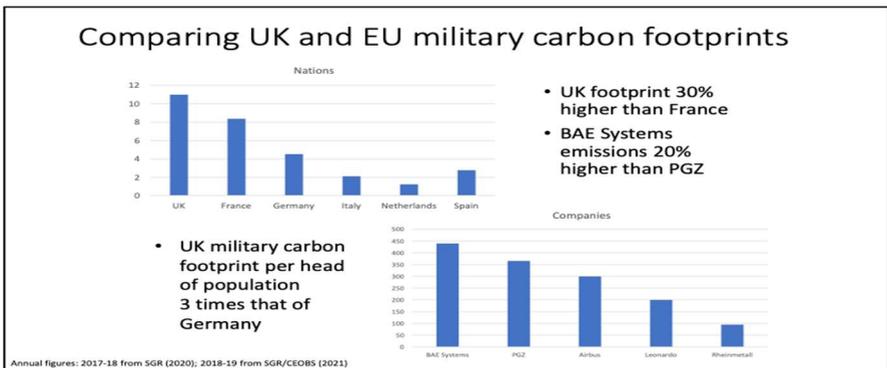
What do children today and in the future depend on us to do and what will they thank us for?

We believe we can all play a part in persuading governments of the urgency for radical change and to move the money from **WAR to PEACE**.

The world cannot wait.

THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY IN CREATING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

The role of the military in creating the climate crisis and making it worse The world's militaries are major carbon emitters - comparable in size to the global civil aviation sector - yet there is not even any official requirement to report their emissions, let alone reduce them. The UK's military is the most polluting of the European democracies. Global military spending is increasing - as major powers pursue arms races in nuclear, cyber, robotic and space technologies. Not only is this a huge waste of money and skills, it makes it hard to make meaningful cuts to military carbon emissions. We need political leaders to realise this, and pursue policies that lead to demilitarisation, releasing resources to help tackle the climate emergency. However, when asked to declare their carbon footprint at COP 26, countries are still not required to include their military carbon footprint and consumption.



- UK military carbon footprint per head of population 25% higher than France – other three nations broadly similar to Germany
- Companies: PGZ based in Poland; Airbus - mainly France; Leonardo - Italy; Rheinmetall - Germany

The graph is from Scientists for Global Responsibility - tinyurl.com/txtyx5ck

The military contributes significantly to the climate crisis, it does not protect us from the crisis and its contribution to it continues to be ignored.

A sustainable world is one in which the human security. ignored. A sustainable world is one in which the human security needs of all (livelihood, health, homes and education) can be met. For this to happen we believe money spent on militarism needs to be used to counter the climate crisis and ensure those most affected by it are protected.

What do we mean by security?

Real security means being prepared for real risks. The UK Government was woefully underprepared for the Covid-19 pandemic which was known to be a high security threat. It has inadequate plans to counter the climate crisis and no effective preparations for the increasing probability of a nuclear war or incident. Human security depends on safe homes, clean air, food and water, sustainable energy, jobs and incomes. The recently published Defence Review sets out the Government's idea of security and prosperity through to 2030 as spending an extra £24bn on the military over the next four years (an increase of 14%). We do not believe, as they do, that changing our military from a force of last resort, to becoming more "present and active around the world, operating below the threshold of open conflict to secure our interests" is the right type of international collaboration to address the climate crisis.

The Impacts of Militarism on Climate Change by Florian Polsterer

Nearly all aspects of military activity affect our natural environment, yet the relationship is often neglected. "The world's armed forces consume enormous amounts of fossil fuels, produce vast quantities of toxic waste and have exceedingly high demands for all kinds of resources to support their systems and infrastructures."

Florian argues that competition for resources, often found in poorer countries, is what drives the highly militarised states to war and arms races, "further contributing to the climate crisis and creating a self-perpetuating cycle of destruction". He concludes that "we are witnessing a clear imbalance: global military spending is at an unprecedented high since the Second World War while pledges for funding climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives look petty in comparison. Furthermore, the world's militaries are largely exempted from emission measurement and reductions as well as any other environmental restrictions or transparency standards in national and international law."

Military aviation in the UK accounts for two-thirds of the Ministry of Defence's fuel consumption.



Photo by Terence Burke on Unsplash

An alternative is possible

Shifting towards a human security approach would require the creation of a comprehensive 'arms conversion' programme that includes funding for retraining workers in all parts of the supply chain. The arms industry employs many of our most skilled people. Transition away from militarised security to a green economy would release large funds of money and expertise creating a wealth of new opportunities.

In 2010, when the government was making cuts to military expenditure, the CEO of the West of England Aerospace Forum, was quoted as saying, "This is a perfect opportunity for diversification and renewable energy presents a massive new market". He added "A turbine blade is not dissimilar to a helicopter blade. It's electrical and mechanical engineering." For the industries currently involved in arms manufacturing to transition to a green economy there needs to be a pivoting of manufacturing priorities towards tackling the climate crisis. An attempt to reduce carbon emissions is not enough.

A better world can be created for all if human wellbeing is prioritized

SUPPORT THE #NUCLEARBAN TREATY

What is the climate impact of nuclear weapons use?

Any use of nuclear weapons, even in a ‘small’ nuclear war, would cause catastrophic climate disruption. “Radioactive fallout would contaminate food supplies and the atmosphere, impacting children and women disproportionately. Soot from burning cities would block sunlight and reduce precipitation over a prolonged period, resulting in widespread agricultural collapse and famine.” “The use of multiple nuclear weapons against large metropolitan areas today would have regional and even global consequences, causing millions of immediate casualties, as well as long-term damage to the environment, climate, health and well-being, socio-economic development, and the social order.” International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) See a report on this by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) - [tinyurl.com/5cufb5uw](https://www.tinyurl.com/5cufb5uw)

What is the Nuclear Ban Treaty?

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was negotiated at the United Nations in 2017 by 122 countries. Survivors of the nuclear bombings in Japan in 1945, as well as indigenous people from regions where nuclear bombs have been tested, made significant contributions to the negotiations. This is reflected in the unprecedented nature of the treaty, which acknowledges the abuse of their human rights as well as the positive obligations of nuclear weapons states to provide them with victim assistance and environmental remediation.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE BANNED!

The nuclear ban treaty (TPNW) entered into force in January 2021 and countries are lining up to ratify it. The security of citizens is at stake, and as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has repeatedly warned, if nuclear weapons are used whether by design or accident, there is no effective response possible. The only way to prevent their use is to eliminate them.

Cities around the world are supporting the Treaty

A nuclear attack on any city would decimate it and destroy local services. That is why over 20 councils in the UK, including Manchester, Glasgow, Brighton and Edinburgh, have all passed resolutions supporting the Treaty, joining hundreds of other cities around the world.

Sean Morris, lately of Nuclear Free Local Authorities, UK says:“ Under the Local Government Act all councils have a duty to look after the interests of their local population in terms of their health, safety and well-being. It is their ultimate responsibility to care for all residents in the face of existential threats. That is, for example, why 75% of all UK Councils have passed climate emergency resolutions. The nuclear weapons threat can be seen in the same light.”

For information on how to get your city on board, visit cities.icanw.org

To get a parliamentarian to sign the Parliamentarians' Pledge to work for the treaty, visit pledge.icanw.org

What is happening in the UK?

The UK Government, like other nuclear weapons states, has boycotted the TPNW and is in breach of its Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty obligations under international law to disarm 'in good faith'. In March 2021 the UK Government announced a 44% increase in the nuclear warheads it deploys, based in Scotland. Convoys transporting these weapons regularly travel by road from Faslane to Aldermaston at great risk to the public.

Take action to show the UK is breaking international law with its increase in nuclear warheads, sign the CND petition due to be handed in at the UN, visit cnduk.org/report-the-uk-to-the-un

Humanity now faces two inter-related threats: nuclear weapons and the climate crisis. The new reality of pandemics and cyber warfare intensify these threats, which disproportionately affect those least responsible for causing them.

The future of life on earth is in extraordinary danger

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)
WILPF is one of over 600 organisations worldwide that make up the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). In December 2017 ICAN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for drawing attention to the “catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons” and its “ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.” Many global leaders, including the UN Secretary General and the Pope, urge for this treaty to be signed and ratified by all states.



On behalf of ICAN, Hiroshima survivor Setsuko Thurlow, and Beatrice Fihn receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017, presented by Mrs Berit Reiss-Andersen, Chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee

WELCOMING PEOPLE DISPLACED BY THE CLIMATE CRISIS

The climate crisis impacts human security

A report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in August 2021 says that human security will be progressively threatened as the climate changes “because it undermines livelihoods, compromises culture and individual identity, increases migration that people would rather have avoided, and it can undermine the ability of states to provide the conditions necessary for human security.” We have all seen the devastating impacts of dramatic weather changes - floods, droughts, extreme temperatures, and forest fires - with the loss of life and damage across the globe. The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) reports that the number of disasters driven by climate change has increased fivefold over the last 50 years.

Racial Injustice: Nuclear Colonialism meets Climate Injustice

Those impacted the most by climate breakdown are often those who have contributed the least. To compound this, indigenous populations facing rising sea levels and the loss of their remaining homelands are often already impacted by colonial legacies such as nuclear testing. In the Marshall Islands the equivalent of a Hiroshima bomb was dropped every day for 12 years, using the population as human guinea pigs to see what radioactivity does to people. On one of the now uninhabitable atolls there is a concrete dome where highly toxic radioactive waste from the nuclear tests was buried. It is cracking and releasing its contents into the rising sea.

Indigenous peoples and communities of colour across the world have been disproportionately harmed by nuclear weapons.

A recent report from the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) demonstrates the connections between nuclear weapons and racism and invites us to consider: Who is permitted to develop nuclear weapons? Who is listened to? On whom have we considered dropping our nuclear weapons?

Read more here: www.icanw.org/racism_and_nuclear_weapons

Selina Leem, from the Marshall Islands, spoke passionately as the Paris Climate Agreement was concluded in 2015:

“This Agreement should be the turning point in our story; a turning point for all of us.”

See this clip on You Tube to hear her message:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apXyENNGSIM>

The climate crisis and migration

Many communities are unable to survive as crops fail, livestock dies and homes are destroyed, causing the displacement of people as they seek safety and somewhere to live. 86 % of refugees live in countries next to their country of origin. In 2020, 48 million people were displaced within their own country, due to climate disaster. The UK is host to 1% of the 26.4 million refugees forcibly displaced. We believe initiatives to support local peace building between host communities and migrants that include the voices of women and girls from all sides are essential. More can be done to prevent changes to the climate impacting human security. Migration need not be the only option. We believe those who cannot stay in their traditional lands need to be welcomed with empathy and supported with sufficient government funding so that migration is planned with respect for their dignity.

What can be done to prevent displacement due to climate?

We believe the wealthiest nations need to assist countries that are experiencing terrifying conditions due to the climate crisis. In many cases local solutions that prevent displacement can be found if climate finance initiatives make the necessary funds available and resources are shared. Many organisations are working to help communities adapt to a changing climate, Oxfam, Greenpeace, Water Aid to name just a few. Governments need to acknowledge ‘climate refugees’ as well as ‘conflict refugees’.

Early warning systems

Due to the installation of improved multi-hazard early warning systems, the annual death toll attributed to climate disasters has fallen from more than 50,000 in the 1970s to around 18,000 in the 2010s. 91% of the more than two million people who had died over 50 years were in poorer countries.

Unfortunately, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) reports that there are 'severe gaps' in weather observations, especially in Africa, which undermines the accuracy of early warning systems. Fewer than half of the 193 WMO members have multi-hazard early warning systems. Funding needs to be made available so that all at-risk communities have early warning systems.

Oladosu Adenike is an eco-feminist based in Nigeria. Watch this clip to hear her highlighting the work she is leading to help restore the habitat and allow people, especially women and girls, to re-build a livelihood in the region. See tinyurl.com/4ked5mbw

ACTIVATING AN INTERNATIONAL LAW AGAINST ECOCIDE TO PROTECT THE EARTH

The legal definition of Ecocide

Ecocide means unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts.

It is mass damage and destruction of ecosystems - severe harm to nature which is widespread or long-term. Committed repeatedly over decades, ecocide has created the climate and ecological emergency that we now face.

It's time to transform our relationship with nature from one of harm to one of harmony

The core work of the **Stop Ecocide campaign** is activating the developing global cross-sector support for an international crime of ecocide. They collaborate with diplomats, politicians, lawyers, corporate leaders, NGOs including **WILPF UK**, indigenous and faith groups, influencers, academic experts, grassroots campaigns and individuals to this end.

Their work sits at the intersection of legal developments, political traction and public narrative, and is thus uniquely positioned both to support and to amplify the global conversation. The route they advocate is that of amending the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the only global mechanism which directly accesses the existing criminal justice system of its 123 member states.

Member states which ratify the crime must include it in their own domestic law, creating a uniform rule across jurisdictions. In this way Earth's most precious ecosystems can be protected and allowed to recover.

**SUPPORT FOR THIS LAW IS GROWING, THE WORLD IS
WAKING UP**

"[EU leaders and heads of state must] advocate to make ecocide an international crime at the International Criminal Court"

Greta Thunberg, Environmental Activist

"This is the fifth category of crimes against peace, which should be recognised as such by the international community"

Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome and head of the Catholic Church

"...highly desirable to include to include ecocide as a crime at the International Criminal Court."

Antonio Guterres, **UN Secretary General**

"The moment is right: the world is waking up to this simple, achievable route to protecting the future of life on earth"

Jojo Mehta, Co-founder and Executive Director, **Stop Ecocide International**

**HELP US MAKE ECOCIDE AN INTERNATIONAL CRIME
CHANGE THE LAW and PROTECT THE EARTH**

Become an Earth Protector and sign the international petition
www.stopEcocide.earth

MOBILISING FINANCE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Communities with little or no access to power or control of resources are impacted the most by both the climate crisis and historic exploitation. We believe they need to be at the centre of decision-making. Access to climate finance to provide alternative, community-led solutions is essential for women's organisations, as well as for youth and ethnic groups. We need to move the money.

The Paris Climate Agreement (2015) is a legally binding treaty on climate change signed by 191 countries. Its goal is to limit global warming to prevent a rise above 1.5 degrees centigrade.

Continued investment in fossil fuels

Since 2016, 60 of the world's largest banks have funded the fossil fuel industry to the tune of \$3.8 trillion. The City of London and the Bank of England have failed to regulate these banks and in fact still hold investments consistent with a policy that would lead to 3.5 degrees C of warming by the end of the century. 40% of subsidies for the mining of fossil fuels goes to cut prices for energy consumers. These funds could help consumers switch to genuinely renewable energy solutions for home heating, cooking and travel.

A fair share of finances

Funds of \$100 billion a year have been promised to help poorer countries to adapt to climate change. But money pledged has often been loaned rather than given. This adds to the debt crisis of poorer countries from which only banks profit. The money promised is still not enough.

Those who have historically contributed the least to the problem feel the biggest impact as homes and towns are destroyed by drought, floods, rising sea levels and fires. Wealthy economies need to admit responsibility for how their wealth was acquired, including from slavery and starvation wages. The unjust debts of poorer countries need to be cancelled.

The **climate action tracker** tracks government climate action and measures it against the global Paris Agreement goals. For more information see: climateactiontracker.org/countries/uk/

The UK as co-host of COP26 continues to make big claims and set ambitious targets #MindTheGap between words and action

Nuclear power is no solution to the climate crisis

- Nuclear waste poses toxic risks of radiation that last for thousands of years. There are no solutions to guarantee its safe storage.
- Nuclear power stations could not produce enough energy in time to address the climate crisis, as acknowledged in the latest report from the International Panel on Climate Change.
- Nuclear power costs much more than renewables, which can provide the energy we need, and is diverting the investment needed for the renewables industry.
- There is clear evidence that it is military nuclear interests that lie behind the promotion of nuclear power, which is done to preserve and cross-subsidise the skills needed to maintain nuclear weapons.

Hydrogen is part of the UK net carbon zero plan, but is this BLUE hydrogen or GREEN? The Government is consulting on subsidising the market for blue hydrogen made from fossil fuel gas, with the carbon to be captured by means of unproven technology. Genuine green hydrogen is already reducing in price. There is no need to use fossil fuels to produce hydrogen.

Cut emissions now

The arms industry, the mining industries and the nuclear power industry all campaign for their own interests. They have the money to lobby governments to open new mines (Cumbria), explore for oil (North Sea) and establish new nuclear power plants. Meanwhile green solutions that would effectively address the cut in emissions needed do not receive sufficient funds. A campaign of scaremongering and misinformation about the costs of adapting to climate change has begun. Civil society can come together to counteract this and be more informed of the greed and lies.

Achieving climate justice means making decisions that put people before profit

THE COST OF ACTING NOW IS MUCH LESS ALARMING THAN THE COST OF NOT ACTING NOW

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES are based on SOCIAL AND RACIAL JUSTICE

The global pandemic has highlighted how the most vulnerable have the least access to finances, decision-making and resources for resilience and survival. Without this access, communities cannot prepare adequately for the negative effects of climate change. This vulnerability is further increased in situations of violence and conflict where resources may be even more scarce. Healthy, fairer and more equal societies are more resilient societies. Here we look at what resilient communities could look like.

Valuing care and social infrastructure

Care underpins our whole society. We need to build social infrastructure: childcare, quality housing that protects from heat and cold, public transport networks, healthcare and continuing education facilities for all. The UK has the resources but needs to change its priorities.

No more violence

1.6 million women in the UK experienced domestic abuse in 2020. (Source: Refuge). The Runnymede Trust has pointed to the systematic racism that exists in the UK. Resilient communities are communities free from violence - whether that is structural, domestic, psychological or physical. Government funding is needed for local organisations and women's refuges working to prevent violence.

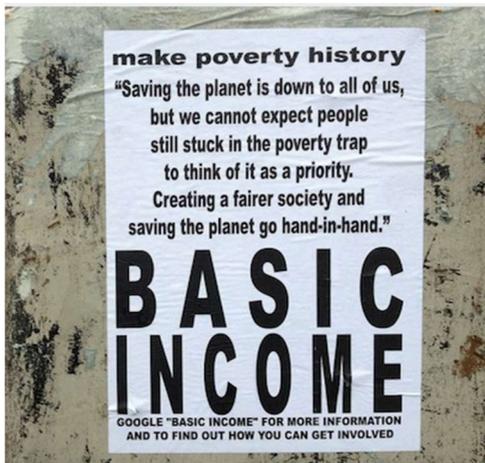
What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

In 2015, world leaders at the United Nations agreed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) #GlobalGoals. There are 17 goals in total, and they are based on the aim to end poverty, reduce inequality and tackle climate change by 2030. All the goals are inter-related and link to climate justice. #2030agenda. See sdgs.un.org/goals for more information.

Economically empowered people

People need space, security and stamina to adapt to climate change. The rising costs of housing, high unemployment and inadequate social protection means that many people in the UK and around the world live hand to mouth. Government support is needed to help people out of poverty so they can focus beyond their basic needs.

Universal Basic Income schemes that give people a minimum income are being trialled around the world and offer a workable solution, as long as they are set at a fair level that account for the high cost of living, travel and care in todays society. See citizensincome.org for more information.



Whole community voice

Solutions are available - they need to be grasped. This includes respect for traditional ways of doing things. Indigenous peoples often have the most innovative solutions.

A Feminist Green New Deal

The Women's Budget Group and Women's Environmental Network are proposing a Feminist Green New Deal. All strategies on climate change need to be integrated. To be socially just and fair, all sections of society need to participate in every stage of the transition to a zero net carbon economy. See wbg.org.uk/fgnd/ to read more about this project.

TAKE ACTION

Never underestimate what is possible when we collaborate with nature

Climate Justice is about change that will not only reduce carbon emissions but will also create a fairer and more just world in the process. Imagine a world that puts the needs of people first and protects the vulnerable, one where we live in harmony with nature. The solutions we need are already here. Together we can protect our planet, so that future generations can thrive in a world that works for all.

The time to act is NOW.

Imagine ...

A world with no nuclear weapons has the money to eradicate poverty Support the *#nuclearban* icanw.org

The protection of human rights and the rights of the earth are intimately linked: change the rules Support the movement for an International Law against Ecocide, become an Earth Protector and sign the international petition stopecocide.earth

Communities around the world work together to adapt to a changing climate, migration is a last resort for just a few See the campaigns of globaljustice.org.uk/our-campaigns/migration/ and disaster reduction campaigns of the World Meteorological Organisation: public.wmo.int/en

Displaced climate refugees are welcomed See the work of City of Sanctuary UK cityofsanctuary.org refugee-action.org.uk and refugeewomen.co.uk

The global temperature is limited to 1.5 degrees See climateactiontracker.org/countries/uk/ and also makecopcount.org.

Resources that go to the military, go to address the climate crisis instead See XR Peace xrpeace.org

Human security means funding and supporting those most affected by the climate crisis and relieving them of debt #MovetheMoney

See demilitarize.org.uk and Global Justice Now: globaljustice.org.uk/our-campaigns/climate

Governments admit to military carbon emissions and transparently report on ways they will be cut See the campaigns of Scientists for Global Responsibility: see sgr.org.uk

Renewable energy sources are fully funded, fossil fuels stay in the ground and nuclear power is phased out Support beyondnuclearinternational.org/

Support the SDG Action campaign. Join in a groundswell of action to achieve all Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 #Agenda2030 see #TurnItAround sdgactioncampaign.org

Allow people the security and stamina to adapt to climate change See citizensincome.org

Campaign for a Feminist Green New Deal See wbg.org.uk/fgnd and wen.org.uk

Solidarity is our greatest hope.



Find out more about the Global Day of Action on November 6

Cop26coalition.org/gda
#COP26 #COP26Glasgow

Find out more about the global work of WILPF at
wilpf.org and **WILPF UK** at wilpf.org.uk