

Now 1-12 November 2021



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



What is it?

The 'twenty sixth conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change' (or [CoP26](#) for short) will take place at the Scottish Event Campus in Glasgow from 1 to 12 November 2021 bringing governments from around the world together to discuss action on climate change. Since the first CoP in Berlin in 1995 there has been slow and painstaking progress towards international agreement. Getting every country in the world to sign up to life changing commitments is not easy but in Paris in 2015 (CoP21) there was agreement to limit global warming to well below 2 °Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels and if possible to 1.5 °C.

Why is this important?

As global temperatures rise so do the range of risks and their severity, particularly for tropical countries. [Small island states](#) and low lying countries are dangerously exposed to [rising sea levels](#) and have campaigned to limit temperature rises to 1.5 °C. Without radical action this will very likely be broken before mid-century.

Why Glasgow?

The conference was originally intended to be in Brazil but President Bolsonaro withdrew his support and in late 2019 the UK Government offered to step in. Glasgow is one of the few venues in the UK with a large enough conference facility, the SEC, to host such an event.

Who is involved?

Diplomatic representatives from all countries will be joined by campaigners, lobbyists, businesses, scientists, NGOs and the world's media. It remains uncertain whether the USA will participate as President Trump has committed to taking the USA out of the Paris climate agreement. Churches will be well represented for example by the [World Council of Churches](#), [Lutheran World Federation](#) development agencies through [ACT Alliance](#), [CIDSE](#) and others bring together UK agencies like [Christian Aid](#), [SCIAF](#) [CAFOD](#) and [Tear Fund](#). The total number of participants will be in the thousands – although post pandemic travel restrictions make the precise number uncertain.

What is up for decision?

The Paris agreement (2015) set out a mechanism to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Each country has to prepare a plan (called its [nationally determined contribution or NDC](#)) to set out how it will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. NDCs have to be revised and strengthened every five years

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and the Glasgow CoP is five years on from Paris. *Unless the commitments in the current NDCs are strengthened and put into effect urgently there is no hope of limiting global warming to 2 °C.*

How can we get involved?

While the diplomatic negotiations take place behind closed doors (called the blue zone) there will be a large fringe programme (called the green zone) all of which will be surrounded by activities across the city of Glasgow and beyond. Churches and congregations can get involved, whether in Glasgow or elsewhere. Glasgow Churches Together, Interfaith Scotland, and other partners through Stop Climate Chaos Scotland are working to promote engagement and involvement. We suggest two priorities : **hospitality** and **transformation**; to be good hosts to those coming to the CoP and to learn from them; and from this to change our lives, churches, the places we live, economy and action by our governments. To do this we suggest three themes: worship, action and advocacy.

Worship

- Register with [Climate Sunday](#) and hold a service or other worship event.
- Join a prayer chain, for example [Christian Aid CoP26 Prayer Chain](#):
- Get involved in Creation Time 2020 using [Eco Congregation Scotland](#) or other worship resources

Action

- Learn more about the CoP and climate change. The BBC provides good up to date information. For example: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-51134254>
- Ring out a bell of warning. Can you hold a bell ringing event in your church to warn of the dangers of climate change?
- Plant a tree near you church or contribute to forest planting around the world: <https://treesforlife.org.uk/groves/g8658/>
- Join Eco-Congregation Scotland online events (www.ecocongregationscotland.org)

Advocacy

- Tell your MP/MSP find out more at SCPO <https://www.scpo.scot/meet-your-mps/>
- Get involved in campaigning for the CoP <https://www.stopclimatechaos.scot/>
- Plan ahead for the CoP in 2021. Keep in touch at www.climatefringe.org
- Get involved with Operation Noah! <https://operationnoah.org/>

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