



The Rt. Honourable Keir Starmer, Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

20th May 2025

Dear Prime Minister,

As 82 UK civil society and faith organisations, from large international NGOs to local groups, collectively representing millions of UK supporters, we are writing to call on you to set an ambitious fourth round of UK international climate finance (ICF4) in June's Comprehensive Spending Review and to introduce measures to generate the new public finance needed for this by fairly taxing the largest polluters and wealthiest in our society.

As the fifth largest historical emitter and sixth largest economy, the UK has both the responsibility and the capability to take far greater action on climate change - at home and overseas. But currently, it is communities and countries that are the least responsible for the climate emergency who are paying the cost with their lives, livelihoods, health, homes, lands, ecosystems, infrastructure, and futures. An unbearable injustice. The failure of high-income countries like the UK to adequately and fairly finance global climate action, has left low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) even more vulnerable to climate change impacts, [with an escalating debt crisis](#), and [locked into climate change exacerbating economic models](#).

Under previous Labour governments, Gordon Brown championed greater action and greater provision of climate finance to LMICs, putting justice as well as economic stability at the core of his approach to UK international climate finance and committing the UK to "paying its fair share of the global total." But to date the UK has not paid its fair share - far from it - and your recent cuts reducing UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) to its lowest levels for 25 years, undermines the future quality and quantity of UK climate finance, and further erodes LMICs trust in the UK as a climate leader and reliable partner, without a new commitment from you that the UK will pay its fair share.

We recognise the challenging public finance environment for this Comprehensive Spending Review, and the multiple demands on limited public finance that your government faces. Yet there are fair ways to generate the finance needed for climate action at home and overseas, that have public support and would deliver substantial benefits to the UK.

[Oxfam estimates](#) that the UK missed out on generating up to £23.1bn in 2022 for climate action, by not making polluters and the wealthiest in our society pay through reasonable measures such as a permanent excess profits tax on fossil fuel producers; redirecting fossil fuel producer subsidies; a Frequent Flyer Levy; taxing high-emitting luxury travel; and ring fencing a proportion of proceeds from a fair tax on extreme wealth. These are all measures that would not unfairly cost UK households and would generate substantial public finance for climate action at home and overseas.

This means that over the next five-year period, the UK can raise a significant amount of new public finance if this government chose to (in the region of £115bn). This would deliver the significant step change needed to deliver the UK's fair share, compared to the current commitment of £11.6bn over five years, without diverting limited ODA away from other crucial development and humanitarian priorities.

The good news is that there is public support for such measures. [Savanta's 2023 poll](#) commissioned by Christian Aid, found that 82% of UK adults agree it is wrong for oil and gas companies to make record profits without taking responsibility for the damage caused by their activities, and only 4% disagreed. [A YouGov poll](#) commissioned by Oxfam last year found that 64% of the UK public support increasing taxes on the wealthiest individuals to fund climate action; three quarters support increasing taxes on businesses that produce the most emissions; 80% support the increase in Air Passenger Duty on private jets in last year's Budget; and 81% support increasing taxes on private jets and superyachts. In the UK and all around the world, [the majority of people want their governments to do more to tackle the climate emergency](#).

Climate finance is not a handout, but a debt we owe to countries and communities that have been made vulnerable to climate change, while the UK has benefited from burning fossil fuels. We have a historical responsibility to address the harm caused and to play a significant role in providing public finance for the global climate action needed. While there is an important role for private finance in climate action, private finance does not deliver for communities most marginalised and most impacted by climate change, and exacerbates the debt crisis LMICs face brought about by structural barriers and inequalities. This is why public finance must increase not decrease, and must be the primary method of delivering official climate finance.

New and additional public finance is urgently needed to prevent further climate breakdown, drive action for communities who are bearing the brunt of the greatest impacts and contribute to the UK's commitments to leave no-one behind, to protect and restore nature, and to avoid greater global instability and losses including threats to critical supply chains for industries and communities in the UK.

This is not charity, this is about justice and securing a thriving future for people in the UK and around the world. One clear example is food we import from nations experiencing escalating climate change impacts. Climate change [added around £360](#) to the average UK household food bill over 2022 and 2023. But UK ICF delivers locally-led adaptation with farmers in low income countries, which if continued and scaled up, would help to secure reliable and affordable food for UK families.

We welcomed your government's manifesto commitments to become a climate leader, to create a world free from poverty on a liveable planet, and to reset the UK's relationship with the Global South - and the UK's provision of international climate finance is absolutely central to living up to these commitments. We call on you to announce a high ambition and high quality ICF4 commitment and to implement fair polluter pays measures to generate the public finance needed for climate action at home and overseas. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these important issues.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Pettengell

Executive Director, Climate Action Network UK (CAN-UK)

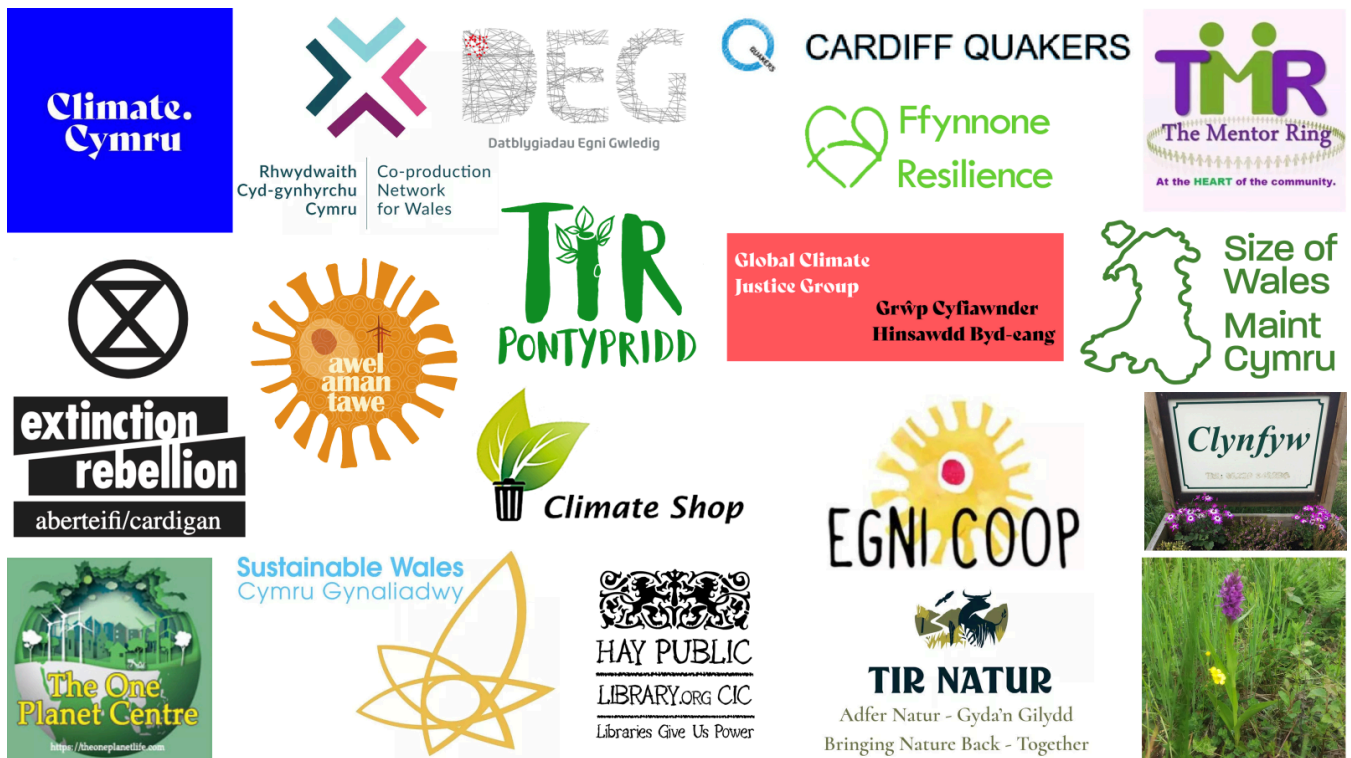
On behalf of the following 82 UK civil society organisations:





Scotland's climate coalition





1. Action Against Hunger
2. ActionAid UK
3. Action for Global Health
4. Age International
5. Anglesey Sea Zoo
6. Awel Amen Tawe
7. Bond
8. CAFOD
9. Cardiff Quakers
10. CARE International UK
11. CBM UK (Global Disability Inclusion)
12. Christian Aid
13. Climate Action Network UK (CAN-UK)
14. Climate and Community
15. Climate Cymru
16. Climate Outreach
17. Climate Shop
18. Clynyfw Care Farm
19. Community Energy Scotland
20. Concern Worldwide (UK)
21. Datblygiadau Egni Gwledig (DEG)
22. Debt Justice
23. Egni Cooperative
24. Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) UK
25. Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)
26. Equal Right
27. Faith for the Climate
28. Fauna & Flora
29. Ffynnone Community Resilience
30. Friends of the Earth England, Wales & Northern Ireland
31. Global Climate Justice Group
32. Global Witness
33. Green Economy Coalition
34. Green New Deal Rising
35. Greenpeace UK
36. Gwyrddni
37. Hay Public Library
38. Humanity & Inclusion UK
39. Institute of Development Studies
40. International Animal Rescue
41. International Institute for Environment and Development
42. Islamic Relief UK
43. Jesuit Missions
44. Mercy Corps
45. National Federation of Women's Institutes
46. Nature-based Solutions Initiative, University of Oxford
47. ONE Campaign
48. Oxfam GB
49. Plan International UK

50. Pontypridd Land Society
51. Practical Action
52. Rainforest Foundation UK
53. Save the Children UK
54. SCIAF
55. Scotland's International
Development Alliance (SIDA)
56. Scottish Communities Climate
Action Network (SCCAN)
57. Scottish Fair Trade
58. Size of Wales
59. Stamp Out Poverty
60. Stop Climate Chaos Scotland
61. Stop Rosebank
62. Sustainable Wales
63. Tax Justice UK
64. Tearfund
65. The Climate Coalition
66. The Conflict and Environment
Observatory
67. The Coproduction Network for Wales
68. The Mentor Ring
69. The One Planet Centre
70. The Royal Society for the Protection
of Birds (RSPB)
71. The United Kingdom Committee for
UNICEF (UNICEF UK)
72. Tipping Point UK
73. Tir Natur
74. Trade Justice Movement
75. UK Youth Climate Coalition
(UKYCC)
76. WaterAid UK
77. Water Witness
78. Wellbeing Economy Alliance
Scotland
79. World Animal Protection UK
80. World Vision UK
81. XR Cardigan
82. 350.org