



## Youth-Led Conversations on Climate Justice

**Date:** October 25, 2021

**Time:** 7pm BST, 8pm CST

### Concept Note

At the UN Climate Summit held in New York in September 2019, Greta Thunberg addressed world leaders, warning 'the eyes of all future generations are upon you. And if you choose to fail us, I say - we will never forgive you.' Two years later, Greta Thunberg is still campaigning for world action on the climate emergency. At the recent Youth4Climate conference in Milan, she has pointedly used the phrase 'blah blah blah' to condemn politicians' inaction on this pressing issue.

However, Greta Thunberg is not alone in her concern for the climate. The largest scientific study of its kind, conducted by Bath University, in collaboration with five universities across the world, has recorded that, out of 10,000 children and young people surveyed across ten countries, 75% believe 'the future is frightening'. 64% believe their governments are not doing enough to avoid a climate catastrophe, and nearly half of the global youth surveyed say climate anxiety and distress affects their daily lives and functioning.

Thus, the psychological distress amongst children and young people in relation to climate change and its long term impacts is clear. However, this distress is qualified by real concerns that countries will not meet the goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement to hold 'the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels' and pursue 'efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels'. Indeed, a 2021 assessment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

(IPCC) has suggested that the Earth's average temperature has already increased approximately 1.1°C above pre industrial levels.

Moreover, the IPCC has outlined some of the severe consequences expected to occur following a rise in global temperature by 1.5°C. These include:

- Heat waves - it is expected that about 14% of people worldwide will be exposed to periods of severe heat at least once in every five years.
- Droughts and Floods - both will make farming more difficult, and could cause food shortages as a result.
- Rising seas - this will particularly impact small island nations, who are most vulnerable.
- Ocean changes - up to 90% of coral reefs will be wiped out and oceans will become more acidic.
- Arctic ice thaws - the Arctic is expected to experience a summer with no ice at least once a century.
- Species loss

The consequences will undoubtedly be much more devastating if the global temperature rises by 2°C.

**This webinar will bring young people together to make their voices heard on planet A; there is no planet B. A space for youth-led discussions, it will address some of the key areas through which we can engage and empower young people to mobilise on the issue of climate change. These areas include: education, gender and finances. Following this, we will devise solutions, looking at the action which must be taken by all individuals in order to protect our planet and our future.**

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