

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

D Welbourn
(Council Secretary)
IP5 1DH

climate@methodistic.org.uk

30th October 2021

CLIMATE JUSTICE

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to you as representatives of the Methodist Churches in Ipswich and South East Suffolk, to share our concern for the future of our world. We encourage you to take the difficult and potentially painful decisions with the utmost urgency and clarity. Actions that will avert the crisis of climate change. Only this week we have heard from the UN that the world is on course to reach 2.7 C warming, far exceeding the target of keeping post industrialisation temperature rise below 1.5 C.

As the nation proud to have begun the industrial revolution with all the benefits this has brought to communities throughout the world, we must also take responsibility for the unanticipated consequences which today set us on course for disaster. It is therefore incumbent upon Britain to demonstrate exemplary statesmanship and provide the global leadership once again that will steer the world to a new and exciting future in which we genuinely become a Community of Partnership – working peacefully and resolutely towards a new and more equitable world in which all can benefit from humanity's greatest achievements.

Whatever the agreements negotiated at the COP26 gathering, true leadership means extending our commitment above and beyond the negotiated compromises: faster, further and with a fervour encouraging others to keep pace.

We urge you to use the power of legislation and taxation to accelerate essential policy changes in which the UK is making reluctant progress:

- Introduce new building regulations and financial incentives forcing all new build homes to be carbon neutral, with mandated use of heat pumps, solar heating, and improved thermal insulation standards, at no net premium to the buyer;
- accelerate the implementation of a comprehensive, reliable, integrated EV charging network to remove the barrier of range-anxiety from vehicle purchase decisions;
- address the urban/ rural divide in access to affordable, regular public transport to reduce reliance on private car journeys;
- introduce penalties for all sizeable businesses who are not implementing aggressive carbon reduction strategies;

- reject with immediate effect all new and incomplete applications for mining and extraction of any fossil fuels, as part of the shift to 100% renewable energy;
- introduce new financial support to accelerate R&D and adoption of innovations which promise the move to carbon zero and carbon negative solutions;
- recognise that the burden of climate change falls most heavily on the poorest, and ensure that the dual goals of levelling-up and responding to climate change recognise the insipient inequity in society, and provide strong support to lift people out of poverty.

Each of the above is achievable and supportive of UK's continuing economic success.

As the founding homeland of industrialisation, we also urge you to demonstrate global leadership in offsetting the damage it has caused:

- restore UK commitment to the UN goal of 0.7% of GDP invested in development aid, with immediate effect;
- maintain the focus of this development aid on its historical aims of addressing health, education, wellbeing and nutrition within supported communities;
- ensure that UK rises to the additional challenge of fully supporting its share of the global investment required to support poorer countries as they adapt to net-zero goals, without impairing their progress in economic advancement;
- commit fully to all 17 of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

These are difficult and challenging demands confronting world leaders, and in urging you to take action which may prove difficult and painful, we write to confirm our support for bold policies that address these challenges without shirking responsibility.

Yours sincerely,

David Welbourn (on behalf of the Ipswich Methodist Circuit and _____ of additional signatories).