



faith  
for the  
climate



David Lammy MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs  
King Charles St, London SW1A 2AH

Rachel Reeves MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ

27 June 2025

Dear Rachel Reeves and David Lammy,

We write to you as a broad and united coalition of faith and civil society leaders—Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, Hindu, Buddhist, Catholic, Church of England, Quakers, Lutherans, Unitarians, Baptists, Methodists, United Reformed Church—joined by a deep concern for justice, stewardship of the earth, and the wellbeing of all people. As representatives of diverse communities across the UK, we urge you to deliver the clean energy transition that is at the heart of the Labour Party's missions and stand with the world's climate vulnerable communities.

This month international climate finance talks are taking place in preparation for COP30. Our shared message is: if you are serious about delivering a clean energy transition, and action to support communities hit by climate breakdown at home and abroad, you must make polluters pay.

United by a common desire to care for our planet, we call on you to use the levers in our taxation system to ensure that those most responsible for climate breakdown pay their fair share. The climate crisis *is* a cost of living crisis. UK households are facing [£3,000 in costs due to climate damage this year alone](#). Making polluters - fossil fuel companies and the UK's extremely wealthy individuals - pay, would raise billions of pounds of vital revenue. This could ease the unaffordably high costs of energy for people in the UK, boost the clean energy transition, and generate crucial funds for those hit by climate disasters both at home and globally. There is no shortage of policies to achieve this - as set out by our broad alliance of civil society and faith organisations to Make Polluters Pay. For example, you could:

- **Establish a Climate Damages Tax or alternative extraction levy to raise £20 billion over 10 years.**
- **Remove and redirect subsidies for North Sea oil and gas companies to raise £2.2bn a year.**
- **Implement a 2% tax on assets over £10 million, to raise £24 billion a year.**
- **Re-establish the UK's position as a climate leader and a 'good neighbour' by joining the Coalition for Solidarity Levies ahead of COP30.<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://oxfam.app.box.com/s/hknz0z5v87koj4oxiwl4kdkyxn59dwyb>

These actions would help distribute wealth fairly and tackle rising poverty. In many faith systems, paying taxes is part of the functioning of a just society. Christians see taxes as a tool to care for the poor and love their neighbour. In Islam, Zakāh requires people over a certain income level to give a portion of their savings to those in need. Judaism requires 'Ma'aser' ,10% of one's income to go to those in need to ensure a fair and equitable society. Quakers view progressive taxes as a means to build a more sustainable, peaceful and equal society. Sikh teachings promote honest work, sharing, and contributing to the common good. These are only some examples of the many faith perspectives that link taxation, fairness and justice.

Support for climate action and taxation as a means of contributing to the common good and caring for the natural world is not just limited to people of faith:

- Recent polling, commissioned by Global Witness, and undertaken by More in Common,<sup>2</sup> shows that two-thirds of UK adults are worried about increasing damages from extreme weather and other effects of the climate crisis, such as sea level rise and crop failure.
- Across the UK, many believe polluters should be taxed to pay for the impact of their activities - polling by Savanta, commissioned by Christian Aid, shows that 4 in 5 (82%) UK adults say they agree that it is wrong for oil and gas companies to make record profits without taking responsibility for the damage caused by their activities to people and the planet, with only 4% disagreeing.
- This support also extends to taxing extreme wealth - in March research commissioned by Oxfam and Patriotic Millionaires, and undertaken by YouGov and Survation,<sup>3</sup> found that 78% of the public and 80% of millionaires would support a 2% tax on assets over £10 million.

In October last year, many of us wrote to you ahead of COP29 to ask you to hear the call of countless communities facing chaos, destruction and death as our climate breaks down. In your response you stated 'Polluter pays' is not a principle of the UNFCCC. However, the UK committed to the Polluter Pays Principle in the 1992 Rio Declaration and [re-affirmed](#) this commitment under the Johnson Conservative Government. There is also a fundamental principle of 'Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities' enshrined in the Paris Agreement. Like the role of taxation for so many of our faiths - this principle calls on the global community to recognise how historical contributions to the climate crisis have differed and how wealth has accrued, so that no-one is left behind.

With COP30 fast approaching, we urge you to do the right thing and show up for our communities in the UK and globally by being a good neighbour and using our taxation system to make polluters pay.

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<sup>2</sup>

<https://globalwitness.org/en/press-releases/reform-voters-among-majority-in-uk-that-want-higher-taxes-on-fossil-fuel-polluters/>

<sup>3</sup>

<https://www.oxfam.org.uk/media/press-releases/three-quarters-of-british-public-would-back-government-tax-increases-on-very-richest-versus-spending-cuts/> and <https://patrioticmillionaires.uk/latest-news/uk-millionaire-poll-2025>

Yours sincerely,

Dr Shanon Shah, Director, **Faith for the Climate**

Sarah Edwards, Executive Director, **JustMoney Movement**

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, **Quakers in Britain**

Revd Dr Rowan Williams, **Former Archbishop of Canterbury**

Naomi Verber, CEO, **EcoJudaism**

Mr Mandip Singh Sohal, Trustee, **Khalsa Jatha British Isles, Central Gurdwara**

**Olivia Fuchs**, Coordinator, Eco Dharma Network of the Network of Buddhist Organisations

Kamran Shezad, Director, **Islamic Foundation for Ecology & Environmental Sciences**

Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, Co-founder, **EcoJudaism**; Senior Rabbi, **UK Masorti Judaism**

The Rt Revd Dr Jonathan Martin  
Gainsborough, **Bishop of Kingston**

Ann Howell, Social Action Officer, **UK Unitarians**

Mrs Trupti Patel, President, **Hindu Forum of Britain**; Trustee, **Faith for the Climate**

**Jamie Cresswell**, Director, Centre for Applied Buddhism; Trustee, **Faith for the Climate**

Colette Joyce, Justice & Peace Coordinator, **Diocese of Westminster**; Trustee, **Faith for the Climate**

Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers, Trustee, **Faith for the Climate**

Dr Husna Ahmad, Trustee, **Faith for the Climate**; CEO, **Global One**

Chief Imam Sayed Razawi, OBE, Trustee, **Faith for the Climate**; Director General, **Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society**

Canon Guy Wilkinson, Trustee, **Faith for the Climate**

Prof Jagbir Jhutti-Johal, Trustee, **Faith for the Climate**

Canon Giles Goddard, Chair, **Faith for the Climate**

Mrs Sue Cavill, member, **Church of England Environment Working Group** and **General Synod**

Rev Dr Hannah Malcolm, member, **Church of England Environment Working Group**

Canon Dr Ruth Valerio, member, **Church of England Environment Working Group**

Rev Rebecca Daniel, **Lutheran priest**

Jo Chamberlain, National Environment Officer, **Church of England Environment Programme**

Rev. Dr. Dave Gregory, Convenor, **The Baptist Union Environment Network**

Revd Helen Cameron & Carolyn Godfrey, President and Vice-President, **Methodist Conference**

Revd Tim Meadows, General Assembly Moderator, **United Reformed Church**