



Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP  
10 Downing Street

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***Delivered in-person***

13 January 2025

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you as leaders and representatives from UK faith communities and organisations ahead of the Second Reading of the Climate and Nature Bill on Friday 24 January.

The [Climate and Nature Bill](#) (or CAN Bill) is proposed, cross-party legislation being led by Dr Roz Savage MP with the backing of co-sponsors representing Labour, Labour/Co-op, Conservatives, Liberal Democrats, SNP, Greens and Plaid Cymru. In total, 194 MPs and 75 Peers have offered their support for this Bill.

The CAN Bill asks the UK to lock two key international commitments on climate and nature, both made by previous Conservative Administrations, alongside 196 other nations, into law. These commitments are (1) to avoid warming exceeding the critical 1.5°C threshold as agreed at the Paris climate COP in 2015 (through this the UK made its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) commitment to reduce emissions by 68% on 1990 levels by 2030); and (2) to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030, as agreed at the Kunming-Montreal biodiversity COP in 2022.

It is difficult to overstate the urgency of this legislation. At COP29 in November, the UN Secretary General António Guterres described 2024 as [a masterclass in human destruction](#). The scenes of chaos and misery we have seen in the news around the world due to flooding, wildfires, heatwaves, droughts and storms have been deeply distressing—especially since those who are suffering the most, globally, are those who have done the least to create the crisis.

We welcome the approach the UK Government has taken on climate and nature issues since the general election. However, the UK is still not on track to meet our internationally-agreed commitments for 2030. That is why, in September, [1,200 leading climate and nature scientists](#), including five Nobel Laureates, wrote to you and to MPs of all parties to ask them to back the CAN Bill.

As faith leaders and representatives, we know that all our communities and traditions share a ‘golden rule’: treat others as you wish to be treated. In a globalised world, this doesn’t apply only to our nearest neighbours. It calls us to take responsibility for the international impacts of all our actions.

If made law, the CAN Bill would ensure that the UK nations, working together, and with the input of the public:

- Create a viable, science-led and joined-up climate and environmental plan for the whole of the UK, as the crises in climate and nature that we face are deeply intertwined, and we require a strategy that considers both together;

- Cut the UK's emissions in line with its fair share of the remaining global carbon budget for 1.5°C, ensuring that emissions are reduced rapidly, and fairly, for the best chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C;
- Not only halt, but also reverse, the destruction of nature, setting nature measurably on the path to recovery by 2030, which is essential to the mission of delivering a 'nature positive' future;
- Take responsibility for the UK's overseas footprint, both emissions and ecological, given the global reach of the UK's impact in respect of emissions and nature degradation;
- Prioritise nature in decision-making, and bring about a just transition to end fossil fuel production as rapidly as possible, as we shift towards a cleaner, cheaper renewable energy system;
- Ensure that no-one, and no community, is left behind through the Bill's fairness provisions that prioritises the need to protect people and livelihoods in the just transition we need; and
- Involve the British public, giving people across the UK nations a say in finding a fair way forward through a Climate & Nature Assembly, which is an essential tool for bringing public opinion along with the unprecedented pace of change required.

We believe that the CAN Bill is vital because it will improve the lives and livelihoods of people across the UK, as well as around the world. We ask you, the UK Government, and the Labour Party, to support the passage of the cross-party CAN Bill through Parliament; including at its Second Reading on 24 January 2025, and beyond.

By doing so, the UK Government can achieve its goal of integrating climate and nature action across its cross-government missions; and equally importantly, the UK can lead by example, and safeguard the continued flourishing of our people and our planet.

We make this multi-faith request in the hope that you will seize this moment for true leadership that will be a national and global inspiration to all. Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Canon Giles Goddard (Chair, Faith for the Climate; Vicar, St John's Church, Waterloo, Church of England)

Rt Revd Graham Usher (Lead Bishop for the Environment; Lord Bishop of Norwich, Church of England)

Rt Revd and Rt Hon Prof Rowan Williams (former Archbishop of Canterbury; Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Llandaf, Church in Wales)



Senior Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg OBE (Senior Rabbi, Masorti Judaism)

Kamran Shezad (Executive Director, Bahu Trust UK)

Rt Revd John Arnold (Bishop of Salford, Roman Catholic)

Rt Revd Olivia Graham (former Bishop of Reading, Church of England)

Avnish Thakrar (National Coordinator, Hindu Climate Action)

Adwoa Burnley (Clerk, Britain Yearly Meeting, Quakers)

Elizabeth Slade (Chief Officer, General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches)

Olivia Fuchs (Coordinator, Eco Dharma Network)

Imam Qari Asim MBE (Chair, Mosques & Imams National Advisory Board)

Trupti Patel (President, Hindu Forum of Britain)

Revd Dr Sharon Moughtin (Vicar, St Mary's Eco Church, Diocese of Southwark)

Jo Chamberlain (National Officer, Church of England Environment Programme)

Dr Shanon Shah (Director, Faith for the Climate)

Barbara Bryant (Environment Officer, Diocese of Norwich)

Thomas Greengrass (Go Dharmic)

Aasiya Bora, (Co-Founder, Muslims Declare A Climate Emergency)

Prof Husna Ahmad (CEO, Global One 2015)

Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers (Edgware & Hendon Reform Synagogue)

Canon Guy Wilkinson (Trustee, Faith for the Climate)

Sister Maureen Goodman (Director, Brahma Kumaris UK)

Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough (Bishop of Kingston, Church of England)

Revd Canon Jonnie Parkin (Canon Missioner, Bristol Cathedral, Church of England)

Richard Murray (Chair, Eco-Congregation Scotland)

Revd David J.M. Coleman (Environmental Chaplain, Eco-Congregation Scotland)