



AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR
CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE

WISDOM FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Climate Justice: Faith Perspectives

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‘What answer do we get from faith traditions regarding climate justice?’¹

Here are three reflections in response to this question:

1. Compassion is our unifying value. Compassion is at the heart of all major faith traditions.

This means that, under no circumstances should we do to others or let happen to others, what we would not want for ourselves or for our loved ones.

The recent IPCC Report makes plain that our every decision now matters in the crucial years to 2030, if we are to accomplish the 1.5 degrees target and implement all elements of the Paris Agreement related to climate justice.

Compassion requires us to critique every decision we now make, recognising that the consequences of climate change impact most on those who have had least to do with its causation. That reality is so unjust and so unkind!

In Australia this is a big issue as we approach a Federal Election.

2. People of faith, at our very, very best, bring an integration of: Advocacy; Compassionate Services; Research, which informs both our Advocacy and our Services.

Plus we integrate all this with our Spiritual Practice: our Prayers and Meditations.

3. Most importantly, and for further elaboration, there is this crucial importance of our Prayers and Meditations—our Spiritual Practice.

¹ This is a reflection on the Interfaith Liaison Committee (ILC) to the UN Framework on Climate Change webinar addressing faith perspectives on climate justice, held on 11 May 2022. More information about the webinar can be found at the end of the paper.

Internationally and across faith traditions, there is a growing community of people with what some call a “Unified Consciousness.”

Over the decades ,since our planet was first seen from space, this community has grown in numbers and in our depths of friendship.

We know we are one human family gifted with life on this beautiful planet . Awake to our unity, deepened in our spiritual practice, with a loving gratitude, we want to work together so all can flourish.

We want to heal, never to harm.

There is research suggesting that the percentage of the global population with a unified consciousness was, in 1970- more than 1%;by 2000- more than 5%; and by 2018 about 10%.

Other research suggests that a figure of 25% is needed to make a real and sustained change. (Research quoted by Geert Van Malderen of the Bonnevaux WCCM Community , referencing Ken Wilber’s ‘Integral Buddhism and the Future of Spirituality’.)

The point is , the reality is , we do not yet have a transformative critical mass of contemplative people.

This reality is vivid when the UNFCCC convenes.

At such times a Unified Consciousness is juxtaposed with the competitive drives of nation state rivalries and with the continuing influence of vested interests.

Those familiar with the UNFCCC culture know the’ both /and’ reality of this.

The UNFCCC is BOTH a sign of a wonderfully cooperative and multidisciplinary plan to fully implement the Paris Agreement AND it is simultaneously a sign of the divisiveness that causes more Climate Injustice.

As contemplative people of faith, we can imagine the beautiful difference it would make if upcoming UNFCCC Meetings in Bonn and at UNCOP27 began with a shared silence for meditation and prayer.

Subtly, this would build a community with a unifying consciousness.

For now , and until this wisdom of a unifying consciousness is more universally appreciated, we must continue to offer our Spiritual Practice whatever the opposition there is to this necessary and evolutionary process, integrated with our Advocacy, Services and Research.

To this end, a request and recommendation.

The request and recommendation:

In the lead up to and during UNCOP26, with ILC encouragement, across the world, groups formed and met to offer their Prayers and Meditations.

Some groups continue to meet but more are needed.

Can we invite you to join or initiate such groups and share your experience with the ILC , as 2022 progresses?

There is a model and more of the story on the ILC website.

<https://about.csu.edu.au/community/accc/about/latest-news-assets/2022-news-stories/towards-uncop27-fresh-initiatives-of-prayer-and-meditation>

We are part of a compassionate, life- giving movement and each decision we make, every day , now matters.

With hope and with awareness of what Climate Justice requires , we journey on together towards UNCOP27.

I offer these three reflections for your consideration.

About the ILC webinar

The Interfaith Liaison Committee (ILC) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is hosted a webinar addressing Faith Perspectives on Climate Justice on Wednesday 11 May. These webinars were informed by the inclusion of justice as a core quality of climate action in the IPCC's new report (Working Group 2 – vulnerability, adaptation). Speakers will reflect on the IPCC report focus on the justice aspect of climate change and the urgency needed to avoid the worst case scenarios of temperature rise must not preclude the need for justice.

The speakers were:

Part 1 - Climate Justice: How faiths can guide us to a just transition?

Moderator: Valeriane Bernard

Philip Huggins, Director of the Centre for Ecumenical Studies, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, and Sarwat Tasneem - "Prayers and meditations"

Prof Dr Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel, the ACT Alliance High Level Climate Justice Ambassador – Focusing on the role of faith actors from a Christian perspective

Shahin Ashraf, the Head of Global Advocacy for Islamic Relief Worldwide – Focusing on the role of faith actors from an Islamic perspective

Svitlana Romanko, Zero Fossil Fuels Campaign Manager of the Laudato Si Movement
Laudato Si Movement – Focusing on the Ukraine crisis and the trickledown effect to climate-related discussions

Louis J Kotzé, Research Professor of Law, North-West University, South Africa; Marie Curie Research Fellow, University of Lincoln, UK - Legal perspective on justice issues in climate policy and action

Part 2 – Bringing voices from interfaith climate movement to the decision makers

Moderator: Lindsey Fielder

Michelle Schwarz, Youth Representative at the Lutheran World Federation - Germany

Patricia Mungcal, Education and Training Officer at National Council Of Churches In The Philippines and Youth Representative at ACT Alliance

Vincent Yu, G77 negotiator

Part 3 – Contemplative moment

Alexandra Masako Goossens-Ishii, Soka Gakkai International (SGI)

Part 4 - Interactive conversation with the panellists

Moderator: Henrik Grape

More articles by Bishop Huggins:

<https://wccm.org/articles/unified-consciousness-one-in-mind-and-heart/>

https://cdn.csu.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/3999299/Peace-making-leadership-P-Huggins.pdf

https://cdn.csu.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/3995137/P-Huggins-About-Climate-Change.pdf