



Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

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Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee Members
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

29th January 2019

Dear Committee Members,

The Climate Change Bill: Increasing International Urgency

The Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) coalition is made up of a range of organisations, including many working on international development. This letter follows up on the written evidence provided to the committee by SCCS and its members during the Climate Change Bill process.

As you will know, last October the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a 'game-changing' report on the predicted impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The report found that:

- Without urgent action, the world is currently on course to exceed 1.5°C of global warming as early as 2030;
- A global temperature increase of 1.5°C will mean far-reaching and damaging changes to people, places and nature, while temperature increases of 2°C or above would be catastrophic; and
- Limiting the temperature increase to 1.5°C is feasible but requires "rapid and far-reaching" action.

At the recent UN climate conference, which took place in Poland in December 2018, governments, scientists and delegates recognised the increased urgency to act to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, because of this landmark IPCC report.

We are writing today to emphasise that Scotland's new Climate Change Bill sits within this wider global context. It is essential that the Bill is considered within the framework of considerably increased urgency compared to that which was understood in 2009 when the Climate Change Act (Scotland) 2009 was passed.

Towards the end of last year, we watched the ECCLR committee evidence sessions with great interest – and were impressed with the breadth of topics covered in the scrutiny of the Climate Change (Emissions Reductions Targets) (Scotland) Bill. However, we believe that a crucial dimension of climate change was not reflected in the evidence sessions: the experiences of people around the world who are suffering the impacts of climate change most severely, and why this Bill

matters to them. For many people across the world, climate chaos is already having a significant impact on their day-to-day lives, and their ability to survive and thrive.

Many of the organisations which make up SCCS are part of international networks with partners, contacts and climate-affected programmes across the globe. We regularly hear from people who are living with the impacts of climate change right now.

The recent IPCC report has starkly highlighted the significant impact that exceeding 1.5°C will have on global communities. With this new evidence in mind, we wanted to share the experiences of some people impacted by rising temperatures, and help frame the magnitude of the issue this Bill sets out to address. For that reason, we have attached the personal stories from three parts of the world significantly impacted by climate change, as well as a letter from the Executive Director of the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), a coalition representing over 1,000 member organisations in around 45 countries in Africa.

We urge you to consider the urgency with which Falesi Saplayi, Mork Nay and Stella-Marie Robinson (from whom you can read more below) need rich countries like Scotland to act on climate change. The new Scottish Climate Change Bill must be more ambitious if we are to play our fair part in addressing this global issue.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Hegarty
Board member of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

Enc: Letter from Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance to First Minister Nicola Sturgeon

Why Scotland's new Climate Bill matters to people across the world



Falesi Saplayi
Malawi

"Climate change is killing us here.

"Poor rains have led to poor regeneration of vegetation around this area. This forces us women to walk long distances to fetch firewood and sometimes families go to bed without food because they don't have firewood to cook."

Mork Nay (*pictured left with his wife, Veit Samin, and their daughter*)
Cambodia

"I'm really concerned that climate change is getting worse and I don't know what to do to cope with it.

"I'm not sure about the future. Now I don't see a choice for our children but to farm, but I am concerned."



Stella Marie-Robinson
Papua New Guinean Australian

"We stand to lose our homes, lose our countries, lose our identities as distinct peoples of the planet, lose our cultures, languages and familiar places.

"We do not want to be passport holders of countries that have disappeared."

