**Kat’s week 2 report:**

If you missed my **week 1 report** you will find it [here](https://www.stopclimatechaos.scot/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/SCCS-Coalition-report-from-COP25-week-1.docx).

Week two, and I started to feel a little institutionalised: talks, panel discussions, authorised civil society actions (meaning usually a small protest or theatrical intervention) and meetings during the day, followed by evening drinks receptions. And the chronic exhaustion, lack of daylight, exercise and proper food started to hit. I began to get my head around the various groupings of civil society at the COP – the ‘[constituencies](https://unfccc.int/files/parties_and_observers/ngo/application/pdf/constituencies_and_you.pdf)’: the indigenous group, women and gender, local government, young people, trade unions, environmental NGO (ENGO), research NGOs etc etc. In 2009 there was an official split within the ENGO into two groups, one led by Climate Action Network (CAN) and the second by Climate Justice Now due to diversity of positions on policy. They now share the time allocated for statements within plenaries.

I also have written an extensive document with ‘**Learning from COP25**’ which you can read [here](https://www.stopclimatechaos.scot/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Learning-from-COP25-Kat-Jones.docx).

**Meetings Meetings**

Ben and I met with a civil servant at the Cabinet office who will be involved in the COP planning next year which was useful to get their view on what their priorities were. He thought that they could have a good deal of influence over the layout of the space and we will be staying in touch in the coming weeks. They were unclear as to what UK Government role will be in science centre or where a ‘Green Zone’ will be and it was evident that there is some tension between them and Scot Gov over the use of the Science Centre.

**Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform** gave a couple of presentations as part of panel discussions on the subject of ‘Roadmap to Glasgow’ or similar. Her main two points were that next year you will know that you are in Scotland when you come to COP, and about leadership of Scotland on climate targets. The Minister was sitting on a panel entitled ‘sub-state leaders’ but un-surprisingly that language did not come into her speech, in contrast with that of the Leader of Glasgow City council who referred to this agenda very often when she was at COP last week.

When asked, as a final remark, what her wish from Santa was for COP26 she said, “That we are able to bring in as wide a group of people as a possible into COP26, as much civil society as possible. All the organisations, and groups, and make Glasgow the COP where it isn’t just the states that get all the publicity – that everyone else gets it as well.” She was evidently listening when SCCS met her a few days previously….

I met with the **Director of Neighbourhood and Sustainability from Glasgow city council** during his fact-finding tour of COP. We briefed each other with as much as we knew from each of our sides and it is very clear that nothing is clear for Glasgow City Council about COP26. He is now well briefed on SCCS and the important role that civil society plays at COP, and I will ensure that we continue the conversation back in Glasgow.

And a chance meeting with an Australian Bishop led me to be introduced to the international network of **SCCS’s newest member, the Brahma Kumaris**, who have been to the last 11 COPs. This year they worked with the National Council of churches of Australia to create, for the first time for the COP, a rest and recuperation retreat specifically aimed at negotiators for the middle Sunday, when the venue is closed. This was badged by UNFCCC as an official event and they are looking to expand it next year. They will do an evaluation and then come up with an ideal specification for a location and we can put to our emerging ‘SCCS plus’ group working of the hosting and welcome side of COP26. With the Brahma Kumaris joining SCCS, this is an obvious area to build on as we plan our COP interaction.

I also had some great chats with scientists including from **IUCN and IPCC**, and was able to pass on the great work that civil society have been doing with the 1.5 degree report – via 1.5 degrees live – to the authors, who weren’t aware of most of the activities. They were very excited by what we had done at the Scottish Parliament and the targets that the Government had committed to.

**Heating Up and Unifying**

On Wednesday 11th there was a whisper of unauthorised action taking place, most of the constituencies had come together to decide that progress in the talks were stalled and they needed to make their voice known. We were all informed when and where to meet, and a press call went out to the world’s media. That morning, during the opening of the proceedings, where Greta Thunberg had given an address, the young people at COP got up and occupied the stage. In the afternoon the combined forces of civil society acting together, and in one voice, gathered outside the negotiating room and started to make noise – tapping glass bottles and singing. A crowd of around 400 people gathered and it ended with around 200 people being herded outside through huge metal roller doors and having their COP passes taken away. Hazel McIver of Tearfund, one of the SCCS members who were in ejected group, wrote a [first-hand account](https://www.stopclimatechaos.scot/8451-2/) about what happened.

To me this seemed a very significant day – firstly the unprecedented occasion with the young people occupying the stage, secondly the disproportionate reaction from the UN as they, not only de-badged 200 civil society people, but also prevented any observer passes entering the building for the rest of the day. Thirdly, the united approach from all of the civil society groups in taking part in the action, in their joint statement calling for civil society voice to be restored to the COP, and in negotiating with the UN on getting the badges back for those excluded. We put our name to this [joint statement](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IC92IiO1t_4YGJPcnEiR-60GGXr1UbvB2RZiBKthydA/edit) from the constituencies.

**Telling our Story:**

In week two we have been working to put the Scottish imprint on COP26.

At the end of the week I went to the **Social Summit** to talk for a short slot at the plenary on behalf of Scottish Civil society, which they turned into an **impromptu handover event**. Informed by our desire to create a warm, welcoming and cultural experience when they travel to Glasgow in November, I led the summit in a few ceilidh dances. I was assisted by a fantastic translator who, despite never having danced ceilidh before, managed to translate the calling instructions while mid dashing white sergeant. Following that I invited everyone to join us in Glasgow next year and was passed the light of the summit to take home with me… (symbolically of course – it was a coffee filter paper balanced on top of a mobile phone torch)

Ben Wilson, chair of the International Group, got [an article on behalf of SCCS](http://climatenetwork.org/sites/default/files/eco_13.12.2019.pdf) **into ECO**, the must-read and highly influential daily paper published by Climate Action Network, on the last day of the COP, which is handed to everyone. (Ben would like to point out that he is not responsible for the headline).

I was invited to contribute to a **side event** with all sorts of much more eminent people and, following an introduction by one of Canada’s three green MSPs who pointed out that Canada is *17% above* 1990 levels on emissions, and was extremely knowledgeable about Scotland’s new climate bill, I talked about the importance of civil society voice in creating strong climate legislation, and our experience in Scotland.

And lastly Ben and I introduced Skills, the Fijian artist in residence at the Pacific Pavilion – drummer, musician, storyteller, poet – to the joys of Scottish song, and he learned ‘Freedom Come all Ye’ by ear (Scots and all…) and has promised to bring it to Glasgow for COP26.

**Learning from COP26**

If you are interested I have written a [**‘Learning from COP25’**](https://www.stopclimatechaos.scot/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Learning-from-COP25-Kat-Jones.docx) paper outlining the main things that struck me about my experiences of COP and which should be useful as we come to consider, as a coalition, how we approach COP26 coming to Glasgow in less than a year.

This will be important to read for all coming to the All Coalition COP26 meeting on 16th January.

**Other places for useful info:**

This [CAN website](http://www.climatenetwork.org/your-guide-cop) gives a good overview to beginners at COP.

This [mini-guide](https://unfccc.int/files/na/application/pdf/foldable_unfccc_mini_guide_cop22_cmp12_cma1.pdf) for NGOs was created for COP22 but it is far easier to read than any created since (in my opinion…) even though not all the info is accurate as things change year to year…

I found [this summary](https://climatepolicyinfohub.eu/observer-ngos-and-international-climate-negotiations) useful on the role and history of constituencies.

Kat