



1. Introduction

1.1 Christian Aid is the official relief, development and advocacy agency of 41 sponsoring churches in Britain and Ireland, we work as part of a worldwide church community. We carry out our relief, development and advocacy work through more than 500 local organisations, which are close to the people and communities we seek to help and so best understand their needs. We work with churches, communities and individuals across Wales as they seek to give, act and pray for a world free from the injustice of poverty.

1.2 Christian Aid's interest in the Priorities for the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee arises from an interest in Welsh Government action on climate change. High ambition, stronger short-term action, equitable participation, and climate justice must be put at the heart of the Welsh Government's agenda. At COP26, and all nations must come with renewed ambition to limit climate change, restore nature, and make our societies more equal and just through domestic action and global cooperation. Wales has a critical role, leading by example, to show leadership on these issues.

1.3 Christian Aid Wales welcomes the invitation to submit views on the Sixth Senedd's priorities over the next 12-18 months, and should you have any questions, please contact Mari McNeill, Head of Christian Aid Wales, mmcneill@christian-aid.org

1.4 Christian Aid Wales is also a member of the Stop Climate Chaos Cymru Coalition and affirms the submission made to this consultation by that Coalition.

2. Climate justice and global equity

2.1 Our [Counting the Cost](#) report reflects that, whilst Covid-19 may have been devastating, for many people the ongoing climate crisis presented an even bigger danger to their lives and livelihoods. Be they floods in Pakistan or South Sudan, storms in the Americas or locust swarms across East Africa, almost every part of the globe was touched by climate-related

disasters in 2020, with catastrophic results for millions of people. These devastating events have racked up losses of billions of dollars and devastated livelihoods. The pandemic has not put the climate crisis on hold and countries on the front line are left with less money to spend on tackling Covid, strengthening health systems and responding to climate disasters.

2.2 The IPCC report points to role of social justice and equity as ‘core aspects of climate resilient development pathways’ that aim to limit warming as they address the challenges and opportunities between and within countries and communities ‘without making the poor and disadvantaged worse-off’. We are already witness to the impacts of climate shocks on the world’s most vulnerable and poorest communities, therefore seeking ‘justice and equity’ is crucial and necessary to the success of climate actions, including actions taken in Wales.

2.3 The world’s richest economies built their wealth almost exclusively on fossil fuels. These countries bear a huge responsibility for causing the climate crisis we now face. At the same time those in the world’s poorest countries who contributed the least to the crisis are enduring its harshest effects. For example, the average person in the UK generates as much CO₂ as 212 Burundians¹. This is unjust.

2.4 While the Welsh Government recognises this reality in the commitment to be a globally responsible nation under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act, Wales will need to work with urgency and deliver deeper emissions cuts within the next decade to meet this commitment.

2.5 The Committee should scrutinise Welsh Government’s approach to climate action, ensuring it is centred around principles of global equity and climate justice.

2.6 The Committee should scrutinise Welsh Government plans for climate action, ensuring they match the scale of the climate crisis and the responsibility of rich countries for causing climate change and represent a fair contribution to global efforts.

2.7 The Committee should scrutinise Welsh Government progress towards net zero in the upcoming Low Carbon Delivery Plan and Second Carbon Budget. Scrutiny should include actions set against the timeframes to meet our net zero targets, ensuring Wales reaches net zero well before 2045.

2.8 The Committee should seek to scrutinise the synergies between the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act and the Low Carbon Delivery Plan.

3. Empowering voices and ensuring justice

3.3 [Christian Aid's work](#) with diaspora communities in the UK within Black Majority Churches reveals the deep connections to, and heightened awareness of the climate crisis, faced by their families and loved ones across the Global South. These voices are largely excluded from the global climate negotiations, and now more than ever, Welsh Government must

¹ <https://mediacentre.christianaid.org.uk/top-10-hungriest-countries-contribute-just-0-08-of-global-co2-new-report/>

ensure that marginalised people from the Global South have a voice in our pathway towards climate justice.

3.4 Launched in March 2021, the [Climate Cymru](#) campaign (of which Christian Aid is a partner) has demonstrated the appetite for climate action from all areas of Welsh life in the run up to COP26. Over the past 6 months alone we have seen a groundswell of support for action on climate change from individuals, business, third sector organisations, faith groups, schools and more, with 5,000 voices and 200 partner organisations involved. Each of these have different reasons for wanting to see greater action on climate change and are taking action within their own communities.

3.5 The Committee should scrutinise the Welsh Government's approach to consultation on climate action, ensuring it engages with the people of Wales and voices from the Global South.