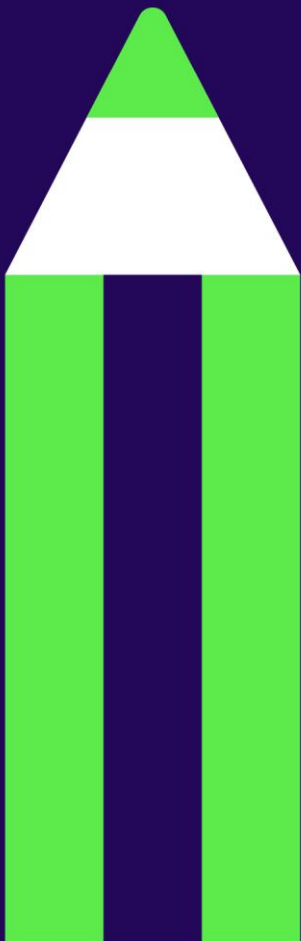
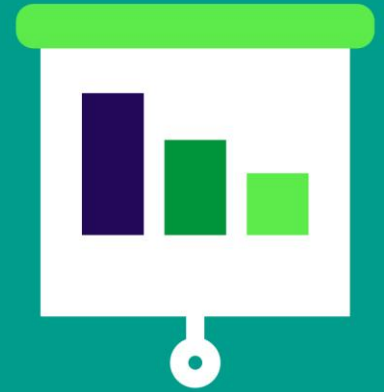


The Climate Connection



Youth Voice on Climate Action

Brazil

#TheClimateConnection
www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection

The Global Youth Letter on Climate Action is a call for action from young people globally, directly addressing the leaders attending COP26 – the 26th UN Climate Change Conference, in Glasgow, November 2021.

It is the result of a large-scale research exercise between the British Council and not for profit social enterprise Catalyst in Communities, who used a mixed methodology approach to garner the views, experiences and aspirations of 8,000 young people across 23 countries.

Aiming to be as representative as possible in terms of gender, background, location and socio-economic status, the research team worked through global COVID-19 restrictions to amplify the unheard voice of the climate debate: today's young people. Research for the report was carried out between January and March 2021.

The Global Youth Letter on Climate Action, and accompanying 8,000 Rising campaign, is part of the British Council's [The Climate Connection](#) programme, a global platform for dialogue, cooperation and action, connecting millions of people through shared solutions to the climate crisis.

Read the Global Youth Letter on Climate Action, the research report and join in the 8,000 Rising campaign here:

www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection/get-involved/global-youth-letter

Brazil's young people and climate action

The following letter and accompanying data represent the views and perspectives of young people in Brazil.

It is a collective statement of all those who participated in the Global Youth Letter on Climate Action research in Brazil and can be used as a starting point for leaders and policy makers to understand how to address young people's concerns in relation to climate change, and how they can use this untapped potential in to bring about climate action.

We hope the following letter inspires both young people and decision makers across Brazil and beyond to work together to find sustainable solutions to climate action.



Dear COP26 leaders,

Olá, bom dia. We, the young people of Brazil, are here to share our aims and aspirations for the future of our country, and our planet.

We are home to some of the most impressive coastlines in the world, and we are custodians of the magnificent Amazon rainforest, the lungs of the earth. We also have a rich and vibrant culture, combining music, dance, traditional festivals, and of course, a love for sport. And we want to safeguard this for future generations.

Those of us who contributed to this collective statement represent the unheard voice in the climate conversation. Over 60 per cent of us are female, some of us have disabilities and some are ethnic minorities. We come from both rural and urban areas, and have different levels of education and employment.

We come from all corners of Brazil, and 99 per cent of us are deeply concerned about climate change. Which is why we are here to collectively call for climate action.

How climate change affects us

Across the cities and the countryside, we mainly learn about climate change online, via social networks. TV is also still an important source of information. But we can already see the effects of climate change by simply looking out the window, and more than 90 per cent of us believe it is already impacting our lives.

The three main effects of climate change we see are:

1. drought/heat waves
2. decrease in water sources
3. excessive rain/snowfall

By participating in this research, we have become more familiar with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and better informed about COP26.

For us, the three most important Sustainable Development Goals are:

1. SDG 13: Climate Action
2. SDG 4: Quality Education
3. SDG 1: No Poverty

As climate action is the most critical issue facing Brazil, we are here to show you how we can work together to find solutions.

Our commitment to climate action

Close to 60 per cent of us believe we have the skills to fulfil our potential and to address climate change in Brazil – especially confident young women living in urban areas. Still, just over 60 per cent of us have participated in climate awareness exercises, and even less have engaged in mitigation actions. That needs to change if we are to reduce the impact of climate change.



With climate change impacting everybody's lives, we realise that policy makers and civil society organisations can't deal with the problem alone. So we are asking you to include us in meaningful ways, so together we can develop sustainable climate solutions!

What we demand from our leaders

Leaders and policy makers, we need your help to remove hurdles to participation, which include:

- limited or no opportunities for youth engagement offered by the government
- limited or no community-level initiatives to involve young people in climate action
- little or no access to knowledge resources.

We, as a diverse group, are prepared to act, but we can't do it alone, and neither can you. But you do have the power to 'mainstream' youth climate action and to engage us in meaningful ways. You can better prepare us by giving us broader access to knowledge and skills, by allowing us to contribute to policy making, and by drawing on our potential within climate mitigation and adaptation interventions in Brazil.

Through education and collaboration, together we can find solutions, and young people in Brazil can become a symbol of hope for others around the world, but only if you include and consult us in plans and actions to address the major environmental challenges facing our country, and our planet.

Our voices

'When I saw forest fires during the past year, I realised that I needed to act. My dream is to be a doctor and to help populations that will be and are already affected by the climate crisis.' **Youth voice**

'I understand myself as a cis gay man, I am an indigenous Tupinikim... I believe that my training and experiences can be a tool to fight the inequalities that my people and so many others currently suffer.' **Youth voice**

'Invest in education and life projects as a means of encouraging change in Brazil.' **Youth voice**

'No more empty promises; the temperature of the earth is increasing – we need action now!' **Youth voice.**

Our parting message

Monitor and protect the Amazon rainforest and its aboriginal peoples. Create initiatives, with private companies in exchange for tax exemptions, to plant trees, distribute educational booklets and clean rivers, lakes and coastlines. And, of course, ensure that the environmental agenda is embedded within education, by supporting schools to create collective gardens, build resources for rainwater collection and improve recycling.

