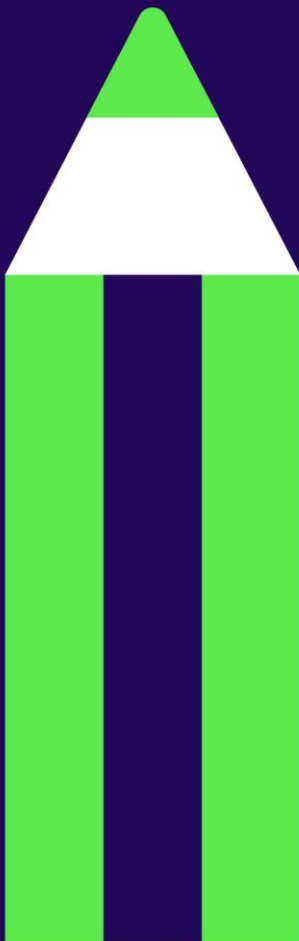
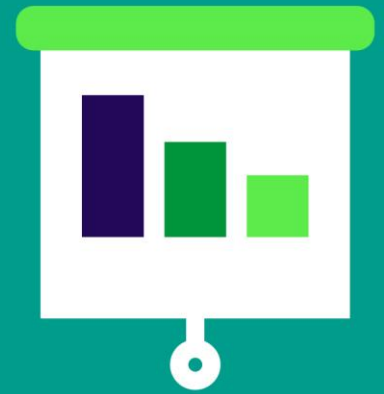


# The Climate Connection

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# Youth Voice on Climate Action

**Zimbabwe**

#TheClimateConnection  
[www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection](http://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](http://www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection/get-involved/global-youth-letter)

## Zimbabwe's young people and climate action

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

It is a collective statement of all those who participated in the Global Youth Letter on Climate Action research in Zimbabwe 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 Zimbabwe and beyond to work together to find sustainable solutions to climate action.



## Dear COP26 leaders,

We, the young people of Zimbabwe, come to you to share our aims and aspirations for the future of our country, and our planet.

We make up 67.7 per cent of Zimbabwe's total population, yet we represent the unheard voice in the climate conversation.

We are concerned about climate change, and see it as a looming threat on our livelihoods, education and health, so we are here to collectively call for climate action.

## How climate change affects us

Our main sources of information relating to climate change are the internet, social media and TV, but you only need to look out the window to see how it is already impacting on our local environment.

The three main effects of climate change we see are:

- disturbed rainfall patterns
- decrease in agricultural production
- loss of forest cover.

We are also deeply concerned about unemployment, low incomes, poor quality education and lack of access to quality healthcare, and this exacerbates other issues such as drug abuse and negative peer influences, as we begin to lose hope for the future.

So we are asking our leaders and policy makers to work with us to find solutions.

## Our call for action

Young people in Zimbabwe need role models, peers who are inspiring and motivate us. We need both knowledge and skills to tackle the climate challenge. We are a big segment of society and, without us, all efforts to improve climate issues might not be successful.

We are asking you to include us in the country governance processes through skills development, by valuing our opinions, by providing better employment opportunities and by improving our access to finance.

## Our voices

*'Youth empowerment is not handing out donations. True empowerment is changing the mindset of a young person, so they can see their true potential and are helped to achieve it.'*

*'COP26 is such a beautiful event. It's amazing to know that you are not alone in this fight for climate change. Let's make going green be a door that opens opportunities for every goal to be reached.'*

*'I am very interested in being a young climate change ambassador in Zimbabwe. I believe it will be very effective, because when young people see young people acting, they know it can be done.'*

*[Greta Thunberg](#) made such an impact, and I would like to do the same here and spread awareness'*

