Report on the UN Climate Change Conference COP26
Leading-up to Glasgow, Scotland

The Brahma Kumaris (BK) has a team attending COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, 31 Oct. to 12 Nov. BK has been attending and participating in these important UN conferences since COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009. Over that time, many partnerships and collaborations have been established and we have developed a rich programme of events.

This year’s meeting is unlike any previous one. It is being held a year late, owing to the pandemic, and it is only partially in-person. Restrictions around travel and gatherings remain in place. For these reasons, some of our activities are online, and those that are in person are set to be more restricted than in previous years.

Most importantly, COP26 is a critical follow-up to the Paris Agreement of 2015, where the world can take stock of how far countries have progressed in honouring commitments made six years ago. It follows publication of a report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in August, that highlighted the extent and gravity of changes in the earth’s climate – largely caused by human beings. Just to stabilize the climate will require strong, rapid and sustained actions to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and reach net zero carbon dioxide.

We need to come together to act – quickly. Our team is ready and truly focused on a central task: To advocate for the spiritual path of regeneration.

The BK COP26 team:

Our multinational delegation is led by
- Sister Jayanti Kirpalani (UK),
- Maureen Goodman (UK),
- Golo Pilz (India/Germany),
- Sonja Ohlsson (Denmark),
- Valériane Bernard (Switzerland),
- Carolin Fraude (Germany),
- Maria Faundez (UK),
- Ruth Liddle (UK),
- Shantanu Mandal (India).
• Incredible support is being provided by Joanna Kitto, Sylvia Ismail and the Glasgow Center – Rose Goodenough, Marilyn Gordon, Barry Jareckyj and team - plus our webmaster Jignesh Panchal (Sweden)

BK Calendar of Events COP26
Follow us in our 30 events during COP using this online calendar: https://eco.brahmakumaris.org/cop-26-events/

Conference of Youth, COY in Glasgow
The Youth from all over the world have already gathered in Glasgow for the COY conference. From Brahma Kumaris we have Shantanu Mandal (India), Niranjan Mukherjee (Germany), Birajith Baskaran (UK) and Nicole Travnicek (UK) represented. They will lead 3 daily meditations in the youth well-being space during the whole period 28 -31 Oct. 2021

Pre-COP26 activities:

We began in March with a meditation on nature, “For the Love of our Mother“, held in cooperation with Faith for the Climate as part of the Sacred People, Sacred Earth Global Day of Action.

Since April, the centers in Scotland has held fortnightly Meditations for Healing the Planet. There are plans to continue them beyond November’s meeting.

The BK has also organized a series of Green Wave Meditations, with each participant joining at a set time to ensure a continuous flow of meditation over an eight-hour period on one day.

Launched on 25 August - Dadiji’s Day – Yogis for Future https://yogisforfuture.org/ is a dedicated website for guided meditation commentaries by experienced BKs for a healthy mind and healthy planet, to share “thoughts of peace, compassion and hope (that are) very much needed around the world” (Sister Jayanti).

We will continue to radiate such thoughts during November’s gathering in Glasgow. There will be daily meditations with green thoughts in support of the BK COP26 team at 7:00 am.

Talks and webinars
Also in September, BK Italy held an online event - Power of Consciousness and 10 Simple Ways to Change the World –organized by Beatrice Mudadu as part of All4Climate Italy 2021, in the run-up to the pre-COP meeting held in Milan.

Part of a series of discussions, “Talking COP26 – three things it’s good to know” on 14 October featured an uplifting discussion between Maureen and Shantanu, moderated by Ruth. It highlighted how the current climate crisis is a test of our wisdom, how we can act in a way that is true to ourselves, and how, through the practice of internal reflection, we enable ourselves, and others, to maintain hope and courage.
**Interfaith activities**

In September, the Interfaith Liaison Committee (ILC) to the UNFCCC held a webinar on Inspired Faith Action towards COP26. In a session on local action, facilitated by Valériane, representatives from interfaith organizations in Scotland called for enhanced cooperation and partnerships, and members of indigenous communities and the global south made impassioned pleas for their voices to be heard at November’s gathering.

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