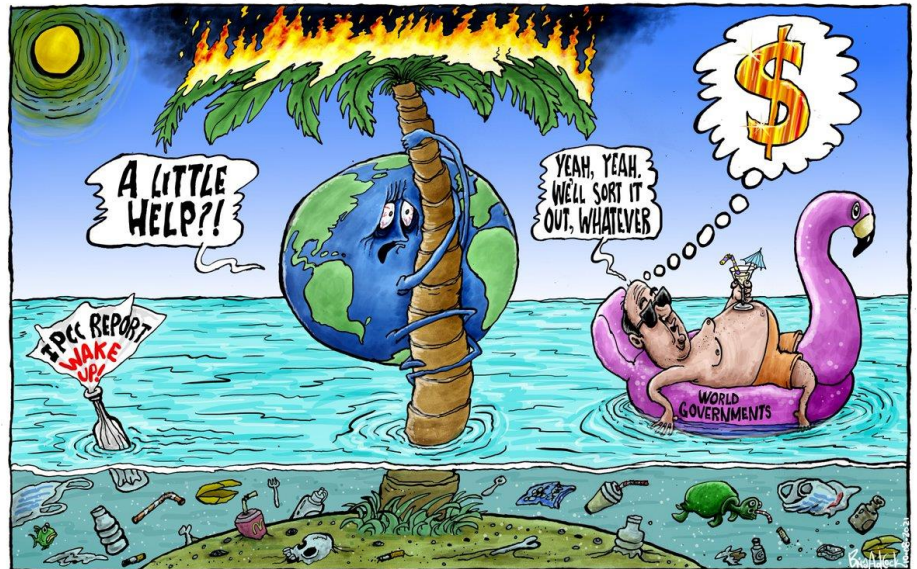




Report on the UN Climate Change Conference COP26

7th-9th Nov. 2021 - Glasgow, Scotland

The climate conference is entering its second week, with the ministers and negotiators trying to hammer out and finalise the agreement. The first week was peppered with optimistic announcements, but it seems that was due more to a P&R spinning campaign by the UK government to declare the conference a huge success. Two days ago Climate Action Tracker (CAT), the world's most respected



climate analysis coalition came up with a sobering assessment of a rise of 2.4C based on countries' short-term goals for the next decade. [For details see](#)

Sunday 7th Nov

On Sunday the COP conference is paused and hence the green team and the Scottish BK group could meet nearby in a small town hall for morning class and breakfast. Everybody enjoyed the murli read by sister Jayanti and meeting in person after the long Covid pause.



There have been also been changes in our COP team. Sumitra who helped in the kitchen returned home and Harinder from Leicester arrived to help for the second week. Patricia from Peru joined us for two days.



Big thanks to Mary, Cathy and Sumitra from kitchen. Our Green team after class

Uniting Hearts to Heal the World

On the opening day of the Peoples Summit for Climate Justice organised by Cop26 Coalition Brahma Kumaris organised an interreligious event, Uniting Hearts to Heal the World, at the Fred Paton Centre, Glasgow. This was part of the Scottish Interfaith Week. Andrew and Grace from Terra Attune set up giant monoliths made from plastic litter collected from beach clean-ups in North Cornwall. These were arranged to form a 'Plastic Age stone healing circle'. They also contributed music created using specially selected frequencies to activate the chakras.



Faith leaders of different traditions, including Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Bahai, Hinduism and Buddhism offered prayers, chants, and readings from sacred books on the theme of love and peace, each followed by moments of silence. Sister Jayanti shared a meditation for healing and forgiveness, sending pure, altruistic love from the source to nature and all those who are suffering. Some of the deep reflections shared were: "Conquer the mind, conquer the world"; "Your mind can be your greatest friend or your greatest enemy"; and "There is only one God". The speakers and audience responded to the questions: What can I do? What can we do?:

- to stay human in the face of this very dehumanising process
- to pray for the respect and dignity of all life
- that human beings can bring about transformation

- to choose to live in the change we all want to see; to live our hope
- to see the goodness and act with compassion
- to see the divine light in all and want to help everyone and everything flourish
- to stay human in overwhelming dehumaness
- master the mind in the face of challenge; never be defeated
- courage and compassion are needed
- do things we love and care about
- have faith in our ability to create

As the evening progressed, a powerful atmosphere was generated, ending with a shared moment of silence and a moment of solidarity when everyone shone light from their mobile phones.



Monday 8th Nov

Energy Transition – Deciding our Future

At the Peoples Summit BK organised a program to discuss ways of accelerating the implementation of new technologies. Presenters were Golo, Paul Allen, Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales, Katarina Kuhnert, Youth delegate Lutheran World Federation, Catherine Allinson, Future Earth Ltd. and moderator Sonja. Some points from the workshop

- We need to develop evidence-based positive visions of the world we need to build
- Bringing them to life in our minds, will help us build them in real life
- Zero carbon end-point scenarios also help us think across silos to reveal the many co-benefits
- Our inner world and outer world are connected.
- An unlimited mindset is needed for energy transition
- Meditation is powerful for transformation



Katarina did an exercise to reveal how little time is actually spent in nature over a lifetime. The state environment minister of the Northern Western Territory of Canada visited our program especially to support Katarina, who comes from his region. He briefly shared his views and stressed the importance of global youth in the climate movement.



Local Heroes – Planting Seeds for the Future

Shantanu opened the workshop with the questions: Who is your favorite hero? Why? and What qualities do you share with this character? The participants then introduced themselves and shared their responses. A meditation commentary with the theme “Let’s travel in time”, was given by Shantanu, after which the participants shared their personal image of a future perfect world. Then small groups discussed the questions: 1) What has to happen to make this future sustainable world come about? 2) Who can make it possible? And 3) What new collaborations or partnerships are needed to make this new world a reality? Each of the ‘local heroes’ then shared about their organization’s activities. Jill Asher - Incredible Edible (growing edible plants in public spaces); Sophie Unwin – Remade Network (repairing and repurposing discarded computers/electrical items); Kartikeya Sarabhai - Centre for Environment Education, (raising Indian children’s awareness about aspects of food production), and Maureen Goodman, Brahma Kumaris, (sustainable yogic agriculture). A closing meditation by Sr. Maureen was followed by the distribution of blessings and networking opportunities.



Local Heroes workshop at Peoples Summit

The Future is Us - Yogis for Future workshop was held by Golo and Sonja in the Unitarian Church for a smaller and engaged group. The ECO blessing cards were used to go deep into meditation and future spiritual aspirations. Learn more about the project here: <https://yogisforfuture.org/>



Feminine and Indigenous Leadership for a Sustainable World

The SDG Pavilion hosted a panel of five women from various backgrounds in academia, indigenous and spiritual cultures, media and policy advice. The conversation, on the topic of "Feminine and indigenous leadership towards a sustainable world," led to profound insights and an empowering, inclusive atmosphere. Speakers stated that enhancing resilience means anchoring yourself in belonging to the world family instead of just a country or territory. They added that it is essential to reconnect to our roots within our connectedness, wisdom, and strength. That requires decolonizing our thinking, overcoming inferiorization and reclaiming our original dignity. They added that leadership styles are an expression of care that comes from understanding the needs of others -- one in which humility, listening and collaborating are core values that are being lived.



Wednesday 10th Nov.

Press Conference - Visionary Leadership in climate emergency

The day started with a press conference moderated by Sonja. Speakers were Golo, Sister Jayanti and Mahesh Pandya, Director of Friends of Environment, India. Golo shared his experience with Dadi Janki which inspired and supported all the renewable energy activities whole heartedly. Sister Jayanti highlighted the importance of having a vision of goodness. This then makes goodness practical in our lives, our relations and creates harmony in nature. Mahesh informed the audience of Mahatma Ghandi's philosophy specially handling or avoiding waste. He said "Your life is your message".

[See the press conference here.](#)



Building trust

Geneva Interfaith Forum held an event at the Albany Centre in Glasgow, 'Human Rights and Ethics in the field of Adaptation and Resilience: Building Trust', with speakers: Lindsey Fielder Cook, Quakers UN Office; Iemaima Jennifer Vaai, Fiji Pacific Conference of Churches; Athena Peralta, Philippines/Switzerland, World Council of Churches; Sister Maureen Goodman, Brahma Kumaris; Yeb Sano, Video Message Pilgrimages; Natan Schumann, LWF delegate; and Dr Alexandra Masako Goossens-Ishii, Soka Gakkai International. The first presentation given by Yeb Sano, sharing through video from the Philippines was followed by the other panellists who shared in turn and responded to questions from the audience. The panel was expertly moderated by Rudelmar Bueno de Faria, ACT Alliance. Valeriane, founding member of Geneva Interfaith Forum, and Ruth also participated.





Swedish Ambassador to the UK Johanna Nilsson meeting UNEP youth representatives to Stockholm + 50 conference next year - Jin Tanaka from Japan and BK Shantanu from India.

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