

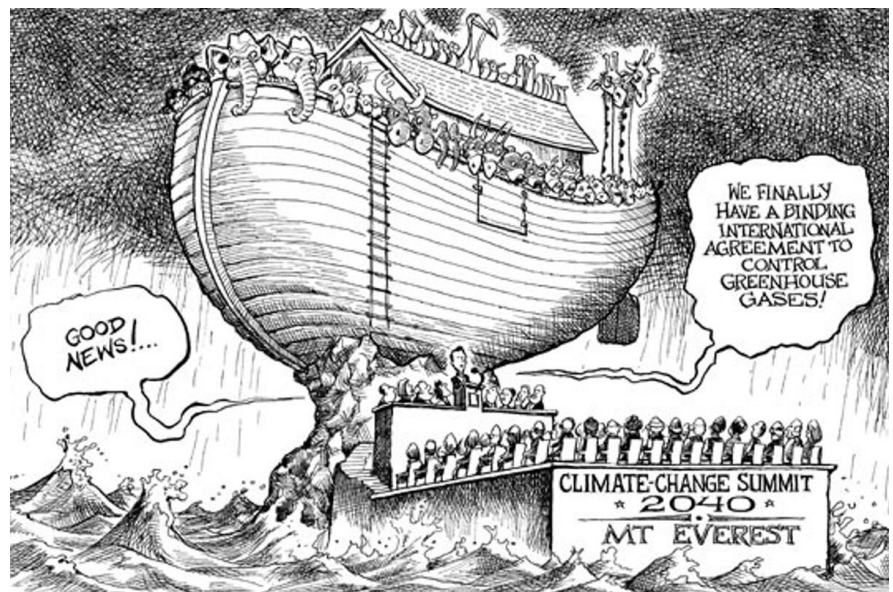


Report on the UN Climate Change Conference COP26

2nd– 4th Nov. 2021 Glasgow, Scotland

The climate conference has been going on for 4 days. At the world leaders' summit many announcements, speeches and declarations have been read out. Good news is that India is moving ahead and will increase its solar capacity. The world leaders agreed to reduced methane emissions (much worse than Co2) and a coalition has been formed to stop further deforestation. [For more info see](#)

On the 3rd Nov. a consortium of 54 leading researchers presented the "2021 Ten New Insights in Climate Science" to UNFCCC Director Patricia Espinosa. Science is clear - exceeding 1.5°C of global warming poses major challenges for humans and societies around the world, and raises the risks of crossing critical tipping points that regulate the state of the climate system", says Johan Rockström, Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact. Here's the full report: [10insightsclimate.science](#)



Outside the conference, many demonstrations are going on. The overall mood is a bit somber as everyone is aware that we are running out of time; it is extremely complex and costly to reverse the mistakes of the past.

Our BK green team has been very busy with programs, talks, an exhibition in the Green Zone, a reception and many informal meetings. It seems the delegates are more and more open to meditation and inner transformation.



Tuesday 2nd Nov.

Interfaith Gathering

World Religious and Spiritual Leaders gathered at St George's Tron, Glasgow to hand over the Glasgow Multi-Faith Declaration for COP26, together with other declarations, to the UNFCCC Executive. The event, Faith in Action for Climate Justice, gave a voice to those from debt burdened countries, young climate activists and climate justice pilgrims who had walked from several European countries to Glasgow. As the head of Christian Aid Scotland said, "We will not rest until justice is done". Speakers acknowledged that we are in a profound spiritual crisis and that the spirit of God is working to restore all of creation. All were requested to reflect deeply in prayer and meditation to gain the wisdom to care for the earth and for each other. There was a brief message on behalf of Alok Sharma, President of COP 26, where he acknowledged that faith leaders and communities play a vital role, and pledged, "We must make sure that what Paris promised, Glasgow delivers". It was noted that leaders are not yet ready to come to the edge and listen to those who are affected. The closing Muslim prayer requested us to begin a process of healing to give future generations a healthier world. Sister Jayanti, Maureen and Valeriane attended on behalf of Brahma Kumaris.



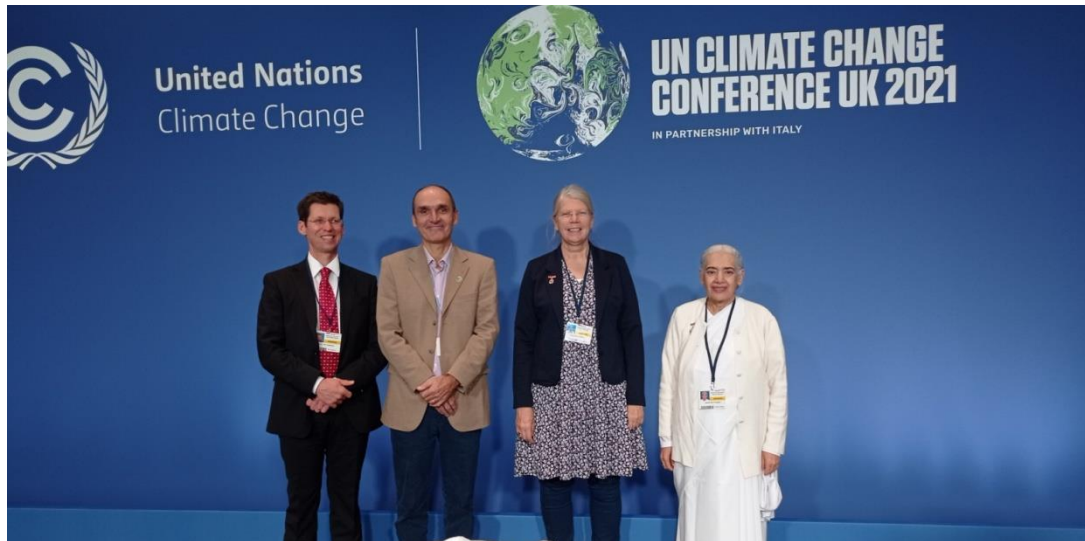
Wednesday 3rd Nov

The Faith Based Organisations (FBO) meet regularly at the COP to coordinate and share expertise and strategies. The Interfaith Liaison Committee, co-ordinated by Valeriane and Henrik Grape from Church of Sweden, gathers the different voices and Spiritual and religious actors working on Climate Change. On the 3rd of November the FBO did not get a room with the UNFCCC because of overbooking. Dr. Mark Lawrence from the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) gave them his Dialogue Pavilion for the meeting; it became a chaotic as we tried to fit 35 people in a room for 12 max!



COP26 Press Conference Blue Zone

Brahma Kumaris held the press conference "Resilience in Times of Climate Emergency". Sister Jayanti, Golo and Prof. Mark Lawrence, Scientific Director, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) Potsdam, spoke on various aspects of resilience and how faith communities can contribute to Climate Action. You can [Watch online](#)



Conscious Consumption – changing food systems workshop

"Before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half of the world." Martin Luther King, Jr.

Maureen Goodman and Shantanu Mandal gave a brief introduction followed by an interactive exercise that invited participants to reflect on the process that food goes through from the moment of planting seeds, to its consumption, as well as all the people involved in food production. It helped everyone understand the depth of connectivity of our food systems. The group discussed the importance of individual awareness as one of the greatest challenges facing our food systems today. Values are necessary to move away from the commercialisation of food and to increase our responsibility, gratitude, and appreciation. Sustainable yogic agriculture (the process of meditating on the seeds, the land, and the crops) reflects these values and produces a more nourishing and higher yield. It helps farmers become self-reliant, provide better quality food for their families, and improve health. The workshop closed with a beautiful meditation sending light to the earth which everyone enjoyed.



Reception

Wednesday evening, we held a reception at the Unitarian Church in downtown Glasgow, which was attended by an illustrious international group consisting of Franciscan padres, members of research organizations, climate activists and BKs. We all gathered in the warm and cozy library of the church. After the participants introduced themselves, Sister Jayanti gave a talk followed by a nice meditation and good food. After the long Corona pause everybody enjoyed meeting in person and we had a lively and deep exchange.



Thursday 4th Nov

Exhibition

This year all exhibitions in the blue zone were canceled and so we were lucky to receive two separate days in the green zone on behalf of the World Renewal SpiritualTrust and Brahma Kumaris. The green zone is open to the public and organizations or companies can display their work or green products. Sonja and Golo set up early in the morning and decorated the stand with roll up banners displaying India One, Yogis for Future and Climate Change and Consciousness.

At 9.00 the gates opened and a constant stream of visitors showed a lot of interest in our solar projects and meditation. Our blessing cards, wristbands and bookmarks were highly appreciated and it seemed that people in general are more open to meditation and spirituality. Later Balwant, Ruth, Maria, Roy and Cathy joined and helped to give our message that transformation of the inside creates solutions on the outside. Later Sr. Jayanti visited our stand and the exhibition. Golo was interviewed by a local television station about the connection between meditation and renewable energy.



Co-Creation Reflection and Dialogue Space at COP26

A session on Feminine leadership in Times of Climate Emergency hosted by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies with Sister Jayanti and Carolin Fraude.



Greening our Mosque

Shantanu, Valérie and Ruth attended a reception held to support Islamic Relief's 'Greening Our Mosque' launch at Glasgow Central Mosque. The invitation came from Shahin Ashraf of Islamic Relief. Their first step is funding the solarisation of Glasgow Central Mosque with the aim of cutting out an estimated 18,000kg of CO2 emissions per year. The BK group met friends from the Talanoa Dialogue and they were very happy to be able to congratulate Islamic Relief.



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