



**SEASON OF  
CREATION**



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Voice of Creation  
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

The Burning Bush  
Ex. 3.1-12

## **Advocacy: Participate in campaigns that call for ecological restoration**

### **Amplifying marginalised voices**

Our theme this year focuses on listening to those voices, which are not heard. They include women and girls, Indigenous Peoples, migrants, youth, the economically marginalised and people suffering from systemic racism. These are the diverse voices of those who have the least, whether they live in developed or developing nations. Many are already responding to climate change related catastrophes and the loss of biodiversity. They have contributed the least to the climate crisis yet suffer the most from climate injustice such as environmental racism and gender injustice.

They have voices, and they have raised them, but what they have said has not led to enough action at the global level. We are called to amplify their voices through advocacy. Advocacy based on evidence is meant to influence powerful decision-makers to address the root causes of injustice, fulfil human rights, and promote the well-being of all. Evidence includes what those affected have to say, their experiences and their solutions.

Advocacy is not the same as speaking on behalf of someone, but is rather lifting up what they have said, and making sure it is heard by those who hold power. Advocacy can be a potent way for us to amplify the voices of those who are too often silenced or ignored, a way of showing solidarity, and a way of living our faith. [Proverbs 31:9]

Faith communities or faith-based organisations work with the marginalised who are most impacted by climate change and the loss of biodiversity. The marginalised should form the basis and the voice of the advocacy we do at a global level.

Advocacy begins with careful listening and dialogue, moves through contemplative reflection, and leads to action.

### **Advocacy at the global level: COP 27 and COP 15**

Two important global events are planned for the third quarter. Both can benefit from the knowledge and solutions of marginalised communities, those whose voices are not heard. Both events can make a huge difference in their lives.

#### **COP27: Climate change**

Important policies are decided at the United Nations' annual climate change conference. Here the world comes together to make binding promises on how to lessen climate change and support the





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most vulnerable countries and communities as they suffer the impact of a changing climate. COP27 takes place in Egypt November 7 to 18.

In the lead up to COP27, and at the event, you can advocate for necessary funds for marginalised communities to help them implement the many solutions that will work in their circumstances. Particularly important this year is securing adequate financing for communities to adapt to the loss and damage done to land, livelihoods, cultures, species, and peoples by the effects of climate change, and ensuring that the needs of marginalised women are at the centre of all climate plans.

### **COP15: Biodiversity**

The Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on Biodiversity (COP15) will be held in Kunming, China, later in 2022.

It is time to hear and amplify what Indigenous peoples, women and girls, migrants, youth and the Earth are saying about their experiences with biodiversity. The world must hear the knowledge of these communities in order to find solutions to the impacts of climate change and the loss of biodiversity.

### **Ecumenical commitments to care for our common home:**

Together we commit to:

- Hear and amplify the voices and solutions of those most affected by biodiversity loss and the climate crisis.
- Locally led ecosystem preservation and restoration must be acknowledged at global events.
- Protecting people, the planet and all of nature, including natural ecosystems, is a priority over profit.
- Ensure that human rights, social justice, and the integrity of creation are at the centre of the response to the current climate and biodiversity crises.

### **What we can do**

Below are ideas of how we can listen to marginalised voices on care for our common home, reflect on what they have said, and move to action.

#### **1. Listen**

Listen to messages produced by or featuring people from marginalised communities. These might be statements, webinars, videos, or social media posts, for example, [this video from](#)





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[Christian Aid on Climate and Racial Justice](#). You can invite faith leaders, clergy, bishops, and policy leaders to listen and ask them to invite other leaders to listen.

## 2. Reflect

Engage in contemplative reflection on what marginalised communities have said. [Vigils](#) [pgs.37-38], [Prayer Walks](#) [pg.17], [Prayer Services](#) [pgs.28-36], and social media conversations with people in marginalised communities are all ways of doing this. Some groups met regularly for virtual prayer and meditation leading up to COP26; because they got to know each other, some became active in more local actions.

## 3. Act

Engage in activities related to what you have heard and contemplated. It might be a personal commitment to reducing emissions; it could be amplifying silenced voices of the marginalised at the national or global level. Join a group that is active on these issues, whether at the local, regional or global level. Learn more about what communities of faith or faith-based organisations are doing.

Many groups work on statements, resolutions, or messages that will go to COP15 and COP27 conferences; others approach decision-makers in their country who will be present at these conferences.

Throughout, amplify what you have heard from marginalised communities.

## Actions

You can learn more, and join some of the below actions currently underway, or follow the activities of global communities of faith or organisations. Here are a few options.

- Change your own behaviour, as recommended by the IPCC in its 6th report, launched April 2022. “Having the right policies, infrastructure and technology in place to enable changes to our lifestyles and behaviour can result in a 40-70% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050,” said IPCC Working Group III Co-Chair Priyadarshi Shukla in the report’s [press release](#).
- Become more aware of the importance of marginalised communities and their knowledge in reducing climate change impacts. “When it comes to working with nature to fight climate change, we cannot achieve effective action without the leadership of [Indigenous Peoples and local communities \(IPLCs\)](#)”





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- Learn about the call for [“Climate-Responsible Finance – A moral imperative and responsibility to all children and the living world,”](#) a joint, interfaith appeal by the World Council of Churches, the UN Environment Programme and others. “For too long, the financial services sector has enabled the world’s fossil fuel addiction,” said UN secretary general Antonio Guterres. “It is now time for financial service providers to accelerate the shift to renewables. They have the power – and the responsibility.”
- Find out what your country is doing about its [climate pledges](#) (called nationally determined contributions or NDCs).
- Consider joining the movement calling for a moratorium on all new fossil fuel exploration. [You may wish to endorse the fossil fuel non proliferation treaty.](#)
- Visit the [Laudato Si website for resources and events.](#)
- Follow the Twitter accounts of global faith-based organisations working on these issues year-round: two are ACT Alliance Climate Justice Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/home> and the Lutheran World Federation Action for Justice account: [@LWFadvocacy](#). There are many others.
- Encourage your organisation, parish etc. to [divest from fossil fuels](#). Hold a divestment event - invite a speaker to address your parish or Diocese about divestment or degrowth. For example, the divestment campaigns of [Bright Now](#), or [Laudato Si’ Movement](#)
- Educate, support and sign on to campaigns such as [this letter for faith leaders to call for fossil fuel non-proliferation.](#)

## Advocacy asks for governments

Use advocacy with your own government leaders. Ask them to commit to the following points, which are based on what the marginalised have said.

- Take urgent action to limit warming to the 1.5°C temperature target and put in place legislation, policies, and measures to achieve this target in a sustainable manner.
- Stop biodiversity collapse and uphold indigenous people at the centre of biodiversity protection
- Put Green House Gas-neutral nature-based solutions at the heart of climate action. This will improve the resilience of communities, including Indigenous peoples, and countries, based on locally led ecosystem preservation and restoration.
- Put in place policies and legislation to achieve global net-zero emissions as soon as possible. These should include phasing out fossil fuels, investing in renewable and nature-friendly energy for all, and conserving and restoring natural ecosystems. High-emitting countries must take the lead in accordance with the common but differentiated responsibilities principle.





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- Adequately finance the promised Loss and Damage facility so that funds start to flow as quickly as possible. A significant proportion of climate finance must be channelled through locally led mechanisms.
- Create a fair and equitable gender transformational international finance mechanism for Loss and Damage. Women must be involved in all stages of determining responses and financing related to a changing climate: from being consulted on needs through to implementing responses and deciding how funds are best spent. Provide this financing as grants, not loans.
- Based on the 'Polluters Pay' principle, ensure that fossil fuel companies contribute towards the cost of Loss and Damage through climate damage taxes. Governments and the private sector must urgently identify the best means by which to secure this contribution.

Source: ([Season of Creation Celebration Guide](#))

