

MAKE POLLUTERS PAY ACTION DAY



SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

Holding a Discussion Event



Make Polluters Pay Action Day will see people across the UK call on the UK Prime Minister to urgently make polluting industries pay up for climate induced loss and damage.

This UK guide explains more about loss and damage and outlines how to hold a discussion event.

What is loss and damage?

Rising global temperatures, caused by greenhouse gas emissions are driving the climate crisis. It's leading to more frequent and severe climate disasters. These climate disasters are happening on a scale so large that communities don't have the resources to adapt, causing them to experience loss and damage. Losses are things which can never be replaced like loss of lives, livelihoods and culture. While damage, such as to homes, roads and schools can be repaired, but it takes resources.

In 2022 more than 1,700 people died due to the floods in Pakistan. And in 2023 over half a million people were displaced in Malawi after their homes were damaged by Cyclone Freddy.

The climate crisis is impacting us all, but those most affected are communities in the global south, who have done the least to cause it.

When climate disasters strike it's affected communities who lead the response. They rebuild their homes, plant new crops and make up for lost income. They pay the bill for loss and damage.

Meanwhile those responsible for the climate crisis, like fossil fuel corporations, continue to make vast profits from their polluting industry, and turn their backs on the loss and damage they've caused.

In 2022 the combined total profits of BP, ExxonMobil, Shell and Total Energies was \$159.5billion.

What is the solution?

As well as doing all we can to limit temperature rises to minimise future loss and damage, we must make those most responsible pay for loss and damage too.

Thanks to the powerful demands of countries and campaigners in the Global South, in 2022 governments agreed to create an international Loss and Damage Fund. But right now, the fund is empty.

Those most responsible need to pay into the fund now. In doing so it could allow affected communities to access money to support their recovery, and show that big polluters must take responsibility for their climate destroying actions. But the profit driven actions of big polluters show they won't do this willingly.

Join in this Make Polluters Pay Action Day and call on the UK Prime Minister to urgently make polluters pay.

#MakePollutersPay

HOLDING A DISCUSSION EVENT



Holding a discussion event can be as simple as inviting a few friends to your house or as big as inviting your local community. Either way a discussion event can offer people a place to learn about the issue of loss and damage. This is an important step in inviting people to take action and pressure the UK Prime Minister to make polluters pay.

What to do during the event?

What you do during your discussion event is up to you, but below is a suggested event structure:

- **Welcome:** Allow a few minutes for people to arrive and then start the event by welcoming everyone.
- **Agenda:** Share the plan so everyone knows what's going to happen.
- **Opening question:** As a way for those attending to start reflecting on loss and damage ask them to share why they have come to the event and what impact they think climate change is having?
- **Video:** Show this video on loss and damage <https://youtu.be/96wtZngITCQ>
- **Discussion:** As a whole group or in 3 to 4s ask people to reflect on some of the following questions, it's a good idea to have the questions visible to participants:

Possible questions:

- How do you feel following what you've heard about loss and damage?
- What struck you most and why?
- Do you think the experience of loss and damage is fair and why not?
- What message would you share with national &/ world leaders about loss and damage?

- If you've done this in groups offer space for each group to share an overview of their discussion.
- **Reflection:** Use a prayer, reflection or poem followed by silence to give people time to reflect on their conversations.
- **Action:** Invite people to take action in response to your discussion. This could be something that came up in your discussion or you could have an action ready – check the 'ways to take action' section for ideas.
- **Closing:** Share how they can stay in contact, and thank people for coming.

Timing: We suggest between 60 to 90 minutes for a discussion event. Always aim to keep to your agreed time, for events over an hour a short break is also a good idea.

I don't know enough about loss and damage to hold an event.

You don't need to know everything to hold a discussion event, it's about everyone contributing their thoughts and learning together, but if you'd like more information you could:

- Watch Stamp Out Poverty's Loss and Damage- and Who Should Pay for It Video- <https://youtu.be/96wtZngITCQ>

- Read Christian Aid's 1 pager to learn more about where the money for the Loss and Damage Fund should come from- caid.org.uk/mppmayreport

Suggested Event timeline

- Six weeks before: Confirm venue and speakers
- Four weeks before: Create publicity plan and start promotion.
- Three weeks before: Organise materials and equipment.
- The week before: Send out reminders and confirm event roles.
- The week/ day of: Run through your plans and arrive early to set up.

- Does the venue have refreshment facilities?

Places of worship and community centers are good options.

Online: You could hold it online if in person doesn't work. If you're a small group who know each other you could do a group call on WhatsApp. Alternatively you could use video conferencing options like [Zoom](https://zoom.us) or [Google Meet](https://meet.google.com), access to a paid account is useful as free accounts can have time limits on meeting length. To help you host an accessible online meeting see this guide- <https://tinyurl.com/littlecogam>

When to hold the event?

Make Polluters Pay Action Day is on Saturday 23 September. Don't worry if this doesn't work for your group- find a time and date that works for you.

Where to hold the event?

To pick the best location to host your event think about who and how many people you'd like to come. Then you can pick a suitable venue. Remember, for free public events about half the people that book turn up on the day.

Venue: If you want your event to be more than a few friends round your home, you'll need to think about picking a venue that's the right size, accessible and has good transport links. For tips on hosting accessible events see- <https://tinyurl.com/uclae>

Other things to think about:

- Is any equipment you need included?
- Is it free or do you have the funds to hire it?
- Can you showcase resources like banners or leaflets?

How can I invite people?

There are lots of simple ways to invite people to get involved, the key is to share why this is important and the impact they can make. Here's some ways to invite others:

- **Email lists:** Invite via email using existing lists such as members of worship communities, or draw up one yourself from friends and local networks.
- **Websites:** Share on community group websites, and add to ours using the map- <https://tinyurl.com/mppadla>
- **Social media:** Create an event page on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) or [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) and share on your own profile too.
- **Local media:** Contact your local newspapers, radio and TV stations as they're often interested in community action, they might even come along.
- **Posters:** Hand out posters, or put them up in busy spaces such as community centers, places of worship, your place of education or work.
- **Announcements:** Share about your demonstration in the notice section of a community meeting.
- **Speak to people:** Talk to friends, family and your wider community about it and ask them to pass it on.

To help with inviting others download our comms pack - <https://tinyurl.com/mppadla>

And if you're organising this as a group make sure you know who's contacting who and how.

After your event

Thanks and follow up: Thank those who attended and follow up with them about what's next. Also let others know what happened- here your pictures and videos will make a big impact.

- **Local media:** Increase the impact of your discussion by sharing what happened with your local press. Christian Aid supporters in Irthlingborough put an article in their local paper about their fundraiser for Cyclone Freddy – their MP spotted it and wrote to them – you never know who's looking! You can use the template press release in the comms pack and providing a picture can help capture the moment. Find your local media outlets at www.mediauk.com
- **Share on social media:** By posting your photos and or videos on your social media you'll spread the message about the injustice of loss and damage, also see if you can get others to share on theirs too. In our comms pack you'll find some template socials.
- **Let Make Polluters Pay know:** We'd love to know what you did, how many took part, and any follow up plans. We'll add it to our online gallery to celebrate your action, inspire others and show politicians just how many people believe

it's time to make polluters pay. Add #MPPAD to your social posts and you'll be added automatically, or email us at office@makepolluterspay.co.uk Don't forget to share a picture if you have one.

Ways to take action: For the event to have impact people need to respond in action to the current injustice of loss and damage. The action doesn't need to be big or fix everything, because when many people do a small action it adds up. Below are some suggested actions:

- **Email your MP:** Ask people to tell their MP to make polluters pay for loss and damage. They can do this by signing the Make Polluters Pay email (your MP action) and reminding them to mention they attended the discussion event as this shows their MP a higher level of commitment than just this quick online action alone- <https://tinyurl.com/mppadmpe>
- **Organise community action:** Organise a community action such as a make polluters pay demonstration or pilgrimage. You can find similar guides to this one for these actions at- <https://tinyurl.com/mppadla>
- **Support on social media:** Follow Make Polluters pay on social media @MakePollutersPay and take part in our social media action with more details at- <https://tinyurl.com/mppad>

Made by Make Polluters Pay, Christian Aid and Faith for the Climate in partnership with others.



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