



# CLIMATE JUSTICE

From a global perspective, those who emit the least greenhouse gases are often hit hardest by climate change. Activists try to address this injustice by pointing out that climate breakdown is not only an environmental issue but also an ethical, social and political one. Across the world, communities are resisting the opening of fossil fuel frontiers, with some struggles becoming linked up, leading to globally coordinated local actions. Grassroots pressure is needed as world leaders drag their feet, from targeting banks and investors to divest from fossil fuels through shareholder activism, blocking production sites, and filing court cases against governments that fail to take adequate action.

## CHALLENGES

- A warning cry to humanity from 20.000 scientists says the Earth's biosphere is on the brink of collapse. While world leaders have held 23 UN climate conferences to tackle the climate crisis since 1995, annual global carbon emissions from fossil fuels rose from 6000 to 10000 million metric tons of carbon.
- The world's top climate scientists admit that if we fail to take enough action, we are likely to end up with an 'uninhabitable Earth'.
- Developed countries have emitted disproportionate amounts of carbon dioxide and the resulting climate change disproportionately affects poor countries.
- In at least 67 places, communities have taken matters into their own hands, physically preventing a certain fossil fuel project from operating. In doing so, climate justice activists may need to confront the police and the law, but they'll find earth scientists and history on their side.

THE RICHEST 10% EMITS  
50% OF ALL EMISSIONS

THE POOREST 50% EMITS  
10% OF ALL EMISSIONS



PREDICTIONS POINT TO **3.4°C** OR EVEN **4°C WARMING BY 2100** IF **CURRENT POLICIES DON'T CHANGE** – MAKING MOST OF THE TROPICS UNINHABITABLE.

THE **NUMBER OF PEOPLE MIGRATING TO THE EU AS A RESULT OF CLIMATE CHANGE** IS PROJECTED TO **TRIPLE BY THE END OF THE CENTURY.**



#FightInequalities



## FACTS AND FIGURES

100 COMPANIES PRODUCE OVER  
70% OF ALL EMISSIONS



BETWEEN 1850 AND 2011,  
THE US EMITTED 27 %  
AND THE EU 25%  
OF THE WORLD'S TOTAL  
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

THIS HISTORIC RESPONSIBILITY IS NOT  
REFLECTED IN THE UNDERTAKEN AND  
PLANNED ACTIONS OF THE US AND THE EU.

## CASE STUDIES

- In a remarkable publication, Pope Francis said in *Laudato Si* that “we have to realise that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice into debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.” Faith groups in general have become very involved in calls for climate justice

- Court cases against states for not doing enough to protect citizens from climate change started in The Netherlands in 2015 (*right*) but soon spread globally, in part thanks to the judge siding with the plaintiffs in The Netherlands.

- Mass occupations of fossil fuel extraction and transport locations are spreading out all over the world. In Europe, the protests around *Ende Gelände* now attract 1000s of people from all over Europe who regularly unite to block extraction at the EU's largest single source of CO2 emissions.



PHOTO CREDIT: URGENDA / CHANTAL BEKKER

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Protection and support for communities who try to enforce climate justice on the ground – as long as the world's leaders fail to come up with a plan that limits global warming to their agreed target of 1.5°C.
- Facilitation and support for court cases against all states that fail to do their fair share to prevent catastrophic climate change. Fair shares need to be defined by the historic emissions of states.
- Facilitation and support for court cases against all companies that knowingly and willingly contributed to climate damages.
- A redistributive and progressive carbon tax together with a yearly decreasing cap on total carbon emissions.



### WHO WE ARE

We are 25 NGOs from across Europe working on social issues, supporting farmers, stopping climate change, protecting the environment, defending women's rights, young people, & gender equality, supporting fair trade, development, global justice, & workers' rights.

[makeeurope sustainableforall.org](http://makeeurope sustainableforall.org)

**#FightInequalities**

This leaflet has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this leaflet are the sole responsibility of the project partners and can under no circumstances be taken as reflecting the position of the European Union.

