

**Loss & Damage  
Finance Now**

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# Make Polluters Pay Action Guide



# Why is taking action important?



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

*The UK has the potential to take a lead on a global scale and Make Polluters Pay for the destruction they are fuelling. We need everyone to take action and call on the new UK Government to step up and demand climate justice.*

*Join the fight for climate justice today by:*

- *Contacting your local representative*
- *Holding a discussion event*
- *Holding a demonstration*
- *Holding a pilgrimage*

*Read on to find out how to get our government to step up and #MakePollutersPay*

## But do I know enough to take action?

*It's easy to assume that someone else knows more and will be better at contacting your MP than you, but you don't need to be an expert! You just need to be motivated by the injustice of loss and damage.*

*If you'd like more information you could:*

- *Watch Stamp Out Poverty's [Loss and Damage - and who should pay for it video](#)*
- *Read the [UNFCCC online guide to loss and damage](#)*

*Head to page 13 for more resources*

# Contacting your Local Representative

**Your local representative has the power to influence decision making, pursue policies and pass laws. By building support with them you can help make polluters pay.**

## WHO TO CONTACT

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*When it comes to making polluters pay into the Loss and Damage fund your local MP is your best placed representative to contact. Through Parliament your MP can influence the UK Prime Minister who is involved in the Loss and Damage fund discussions.*

*To successfully pressure the current Prime Minister it is important for lots of MP's from all nations and parties to show support for making polluters pay. By contacting your MP you can help build the pressure and fight for climate justice.*



## HOW TO CONTACT

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*Find your MPs details at [theyworkforyou.com](https://theyworkforyou.com). Before contacting your MP use this site to see if your MP holds any particular positions relevant to climate justice. Once you know more about your MP you can either:*

- Arrange to Meet your MP*
- or*
- Write to them*

*The most effective way to lobby your MP is to meet them; you could ask to attend one of their regular constituent surgeries or invite them to something you are organising.*

*You can also write an email or a letter to your MP. Writing a letter to your MP is more impactful if you can gather a group to write to the same MP.*

# Contacting your Local Representative

## WHAT TO SAY

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However you want to connect with your MP, in person or writing, what you say to them is up to you, but below are some suggested points:

- **Introduction:** Start by stating who you are as an individual or a group and include where you live so the MP knows you're one of their constituents (otherwise they'll likely dismiss you!)
- **What and why:** Share what loss and damage is and why you care about it
- **Personalise:** Try to link making polluters pay up for loss and damage to something your MP is already supportive of such as a local environmental project, or relevant to a position they hold (e.g. if they are a member of the net zero committee)
- **Ask:** It's important to have a clear ask for your MP, you could:
  - Ask them to attend an upcoming parliamentary event on loss and damage
  - Ask them to submit a parliamentary question on loss and damage
  - Ask them to write to the Minister for International Development and The Chancellor and ask that the Government commit, ahead of COP29, to make UK-based fossil fuel companies pay in order to finance the UN's Loss and Damage Fund
- **Response:** Building a productive relationship with your MP means offering ways you can support them in their action e.g. answering questions or providing briefings. (If you don't know the answer to questions that's okay; reach out to us!)
- **Briefing:** Give them an MP briefing with additional information (but make sure you mention your main points during your correspondence as they might not read the briefing!)
- **Thanks:** Thank them for acting as your representative (this can help their efforts on this issue feel valued and can contribute to a more positive partnership!)
- **Be clear & succinct!** Being clear and focused is more impactful; plan your meeting well and keep it to the point / with written correspondence follow a clear structure and write around 400-500 words.

P.S Check out page 12 to find out how to boost your impact even further!



# Contacting your Local Representative

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## AFTER CONTACTING YOUR MP

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*How you follow up with your MP depends on how you initially contacted them, but it's important to keep the conversation going!*

*If you had a **meeting** with them write to them and thank them for meeting you. Remind them of any actions they agreed to and provide them with any information they requested. If you don't hear back in a few weeks look for an opportunity to get in touch (e.g. through another action you're taking) and check in on their actions (remember some actions take time!)*

*If you **wrote** to your MP remember that MPs receive many letters / emails so. give them time to respond. After a couple of weeks you can phone their office to check if they've received it. Check their reply to see if they've responded to your asks and write your own response. (Christian Aid have some 'what to say next' suggestions to some common MP replies)*

*If you're working as a group make sure you keep everyone in the loop about replies and next steps and thank them for taking part!*



# Holding a Discussion Event

**A discussion event offers 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.**

## WHERE TO HOLD THE EVENT

*Holding a discussion event can be as simple as inviting a few friends to your house or hosting an event for your local community.*

*If you want your event to be more than a few friends round your house, you'll need to think about picking a venue that's the right size, accessible and has good transport links. See [here](#) for tips.*

*Other things to consider; do you need equipment? can it be provided for free or do you need funds to hire it? does the venue have refreshment options?*

*If in person doesn't work why not hold the event online? Zoom and Google Meet are good options! See [here](#) for tips.*

## SUGGESTED EVENT TIMELINE

### **Six weeks before**

- Confirm Venue
- Confirm 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 of / day of**

- Run through your plans
- Arrive early to set up

**SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR INFO ON WHAT TO DO DURING THE EVENT. AFTER THE EVENT THANK THOSE THAT ATTENDED AND SHARE THE WAYS THEY CAN TAKE ACTION. DON'T FORGET TO SPREAD THE WORD WITH LOCAL MEDIA, ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND WITH MAKE POLLUTERS PAY TOO!**

# Holding a Discussion Event

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## WHAT TO DO DURING THE EVENT

We suggest allowing 60–90 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.

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
- **Discussion:** As a whole group or in 3s and 4s ask people to reflect on some of the following questions:
  - How do you feel following what you've heard about loss and damage?
  - What struck you the most and why?
  - Do you think experience of loss and damage is fair?
  - What message would you share with national and / or world leaders around loss and damage?
- **Reflection:** If you've run through these questions as a group offer space for a discussion and then 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 the action ready (check the ways to take action section for ideas)
- **Closing:** Share how they can stay in contact and thank people for coming

# Holding a Demonstration

A demonstration is a way to make the injustice of loss and damage visible. Whether you demonstrate with a few friends or as a larger community group you will be contributing to a host of activities that are pressuring the UK Prime Minister to make polluters pay.

## WHERE TO HOLD THE EVENT

When deciding where to demonstrate consider if you want it to be visible by lots of people or by a particular person / group.

Some potential locations could be a place linked to the political system (e.g. MPs office), somewhere linked to fossil fuels (e.g. petrol station) or a prominent public space. With any location be aware of what is private and public land and make sure you have the right permission to be there.

To help make your demonstration accessible think about facilities (e.g. parking, toilets, places to sit, level ground). Visit [here](#) for more info on accessibility.

Everyone has the right to peaceful protest but if your demonstration involves a march **you are required by law** to inform the police in writing at least 6 days before, this includes the date, time, route and contact details of the organiser(s). For more on demonstration and the police visit [here](#).

## SUGGESTED EVENT TIMELINE

### Six weeks before

- Confirm agenda
- Confirm speakers
- Confirm route (if marching)

### Four weeks before

- Create publicity plan and start promoting your demonstration

### Three weeks before

- Organise materials and equipment
- Inform the police if you are marching

### The week before

- Send out reminders and confirm demonstration roles

### The week of / day of

- Run through your plans
- Arrive early to set up





# Holding a Demonstration

## WHAT TO DO DURING THE EVENT

We recommend not planning for a demonstration that is longer than 90 minutes for accessibility reasons. It is important to keep to your agreed time.

What you do on the day is up to you, but below are some suggestions:

- **Welcome:** Allow a few minutes for people to arrive and then start by welcoming everyone.
- **Agenda and roles:** Share what you plan to do during your demonstration, including your route if you're marching. If you're more than a couple of people introduce anyone who has a specific role such as a route guide, wellbeing contact, public/police liaison, media link, and photographer/videographer.
- **Speeches:** Personal stories are a powerful way to help people relate to an issue. Invite a few people to share about how they found out about loss and damage, what struck them about it and why they think polluters should pay. Try to have a range of voices, including those who don't usually speak, or those who have personal experience of loss and damage. You could have someone read a testimonial of a [young adult from the global south](#).
- **Silence:** Moments of silence give an opportunity for people to personally reflect on the injustice of loss and damage and their role in bringing change. It's also visually powerful in a busy location.
- **Singing:** This can be both a powerful communal experience for those joining in and also capture the attention of people passing by. To help people sing it's a good idea to have copies of the words and pick songs / tunes they know. You can find a collection of protest songs [here](#).
- **March:** A march allows you to visit a few locations, giving you the opportunity to highlight your message with a larger range of people (you will need to inform the police if you plan on marching)
- **Closing:** At the end share how everyone can stay in contact, and thank people for coming

### IMPACT:

- IF YOU'VE ORGANISED SPEAKERS ORGANISE A PA SYSTEM FOR BUSY SPACES OR FIND A LOCATION WHERE THE SPEAKERS CAN BE EASILY HEARD.
- MAKE BANNERS OR PLACARDS OR HAND OUT FLYERS

# Ways for event attendees to take action post event

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## **Email their MP**

Ask people to tell their MP to make polluters pay for loss and damage. They can do this by using the the Make Polluters Pay [“email your MP” action tool](#). You can also remind them to mention in their email that they attended an event / action on loss and damage as this shows their MP a higher level of commitment to climate justice.



## **Organise community action**

Encourage attendees to organise their own community action or get involved in other upcoming loss and damage related events.



## **Support on social media**

Encourage attendees to follow Make Polluters Pay on social media (twitter/x, instagram and tiktok) to stay up to date and hear about further events



## **Share resources**

Direct supporters to this action guide and encourage them to look at the resources on page 13, Share with them other resources you’ve come across that are related to Loss and Damage & Making polluters pay.

# How do I get more people involved?

*There are lots of simple ways to invite people to get involved; and it's important to reach out as you'll have more of an impact as a group than you will acting alone! The key thing is to share why getting involved is important and the impact they can have.*

*Suggestions for recruiting more climate justice advocates:*

- *Email lists*
- *Social Media*
- *Announcements*
- *Speak to people*
- *Use posters*

*Email lists are useful for reaching a large number of people; can you get an email sent out to your local community? to your faith group? to your work? to your course-mates?*

*Utilise social media to spread the word and to create group chats for those who are keen to get involved in your climate justice action. Why not also post in community groups on facebook and create events on eventbrite and facebook.*

*Handing out posters or putting them in bust places is a great way to spread the word about your action.*

*Talk to your friends, family and your wider community about your action and ask them to pass it on. If you attend community meetings why not announce about your action and invite others to join you!*



# Boost your impact!

*Public communications can hold your MP to account on their pledges and spread awareness of your discussion event / demonstration / pilgrimage even further!*

*We suggest:*

- *Sharing on social media*
- *Contacting local media*
- *Letting Make Polluters Pay know*



*Share updates on social media from your event / meeting including photos! If you met your MP write about current outcomes from your meeting.*

*Send a short update and photo to your local paper about your meeting / event. If it's been a positive meeting with your MP you could even consider doing a joint release with them! If they're not yet on board with loss and damage focus on why it's so important for climate justice rather than your MPs resistance.*

*We'd love to know what you did, how many people were involved, how well the event / meeting went 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 of us believe it's time to make polluters pay!*

*Contact us on [office@makepolluterspay.co.uk](mailto:office@makepolluterspay.co.uk)*



## Resources



[Make Polluters Pay Website](#)

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[UNFCCC online guide to loss and damage](#)

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[Pocket guide to Loss & Damage](#)

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[Written & Video Stories of Loss & Damage](#)

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[Loss & damage collaboration website](#)

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[Loss & Damage Finance Now Website](#)

**Thank you for  
demanding Climate  
Justice and calling  
on the UK  
Government  
to  
Make  
Polluters  
Pay!**

