

Climate Justice

Why is this a Global Justice Issue (GJI)?

From floods and fires to hurricanes and droughts, climate change is impacting communities disproportionately across the globe. Those who contribute least to greenhouse gas emissions face the worst consequences such as sea level rise, crop failure and forced displacement. The crisis threatens access to food, shelter, water and life, especially for poor communities, small islanders, women, Indigenous and disabled people in the Global South. Climate change is also a direct threat to human rights, impacting the health, safety and security of millions of people. According to a [2026 article by Eurostat](#) (the statistical office of the European Union) Ireland has the second highest greenhouse gas emissions per capita in Europe, so there is great scope for local action.



Connected Global Justice Issues

Colonialism and Neocolonialism, Migration, Resource Extraction, Ethical Consumption, Degrowth, Water Justice.



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

13: Climate Action. 1: No Poverty. 5: Gender equality. 10: Reduced Inequalities. 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. 15: Life on Land.

Topic

Teaching and Learning Activity

Resource for Activity

What is Climate Justice?	Creative writing: learners explore a personal injustice, followed by a Think-Pair-Share activity to define climate justice. They compare this with the definition by Trócaire.	See the WWGS lesson on climate justice (slides 1-12) including the Oxfam video simple definition of climate injustice (1 min).  Think-Pair-Share instructions here . 
Dimensions of Climate Justice	Learners use a Jigsaw activity to consider 5 aspects of climate justice. The class is divided into 5 ‘home’ groups and each group rewrites one of the 5 dimensions (printed and cut out from the resource) in their own words. The groups then split and join different groups. Members of the new groups present their dimension to the other members, so that every learner learns about every dimension.	United Nations article 5 Key Dimensions of Climate Justice .  For more details on the Jigsaw activity see OIDE 

Topic	Teaching and Learning Activity	Resource for Activity
Root Causes	Learners use images (photos, paintings, cartoons) to identify 10 root causes of climate injustice. They use a matching activity to fit the definition of climate justice to the description of the root cause.	See the WWGS lesson on climate justice (slides 13-23). 
	How root causes connect: learners use a Web of Connections activity to link the root causes of climate injustice.	See the WWGS lesson on climate justice (slides 28-30). 
Case Study: Climate Injustice	2 sequential lessons on the Niger Delta. Lesson 1 explores the causes and consequences of oil exploitation using a World Café activity . Lesson 2 uses a role play activity (The Power Game) to consider power dynamics in the Niger Delta.	2 lessons on the Niger Delta at WWGS lessons on the Niger Delta . 
		World Café activity 
Personal Impacts	Giant Steps: Using role cards, learners answer questions and step across the classroom to show how different countries and people are disproportionately affected by climate change.	Trócaire's climate justice resource . Click the POST PRIMARY sign, then the heart, then the PRESENTATION sign and the GIANT STEPS signs to download the presentation and the role cards. 

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Gender & Climate Justice	Case study of rural Ugandan women mitigating and adapting to climate change. Learners research the NGO Solar Sister and design a poster, flier or speech for their business.	WWGS lesson 2 a) on climate mitigation (slides 5-8) 
	2 group activities on gender inequalities in disasters. Learners discuss underlying gender imbalances in different scenarios and compare impacts of climate crises by completing a table .	See pages 15-17 of the British Council resource Climate Change and Girls' Education , and slides 18-23 of Climate Change and Girls' Education slides, downloadable here . 
Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation	Learners define and compare climate mitigation and adaptation using images and a Venn diagram . They then complete a Why-Why-Why Chain to Compare Haiti and Ireland's ability to mitigate climate change, looking at root causes of the difference.	WWGS lesson on climate mitigation and adaptation 
	Case studies of climate mitigation and adaptation. See gender case study of Solar Sisters in Uganda (above). Learner pairs use a Problem and Solutions Tree (instructions in the lesson, slide 14) to learn about 2 case studies of climate adaptation in Cuba and Colombia.	WWGS lesson 2b) on climate adaptation , (slides 10-15). 
Climate Debt and the Loss & Damage Fund	Climate debt: learners play a game – the Debt Debate. Using tokens, they decide whether 5 countries should pay or receive money (are they debtors or creditors?) in the fight against climate change.	WWGS lesson on climate debt . Introduction to climate debt (slides 5-10). Debt Debate game (slides 11-14). 
	Loss and Damage Fund: Using a quiz and a role-playing game – Shifting Sands – learners explore and critique the Loss and Damage Fund established at the Conference of the Parties (COP) 2022.	WWGS lesson on Loss and Damage 

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Water & Climate Justice	Activities include a quiz , video and Giant Steps to explore how water issues link to climate justice.	See the Trócaire webpage and click on POST PRIMARY. 



- See [Trócaire climate justice](#), [Friends of the Earth](#), [Young Friends of the Earth](#) and [Not Here Not Anywhere](#) and join their campaigns for climate justice and a just transition.
- Connect with the National Youth Council of Ireland's [Future Generations](#) project and sign the Climate Justice charter.
- Join the [Stop Climate Chaos](#) coalition and lobby TDs to divest from fossil fuels. There are guidelines for lobbying TDs and information on action and protests [here](#).
- Consult the [WWGS Teacher Handbook](#) p.16-18 for ideas on student action.
- For workshop facilitators on climate justice and linked issues, see the [WWGS Directory of GCE facilitators](#).

