



Climate for Peace Programme

Position Paper

SCI volunteers for climate justice and sustainable living

The Challenge

Every chapter of history presents its own challenges. SCI was created to respond to such challenges: war, destructions, injustice and violence. In the last 100 years of commitment to building peace and promoting the culture of peace, SCI has reacted to postwar situations, natural disasters, ecological and social challenges.

Today climate change is for us what World War I was to Pierre Cérésolle in early XX century: it presents a growing threat to peace, nonviolence and human rights. The climate is changing rapidly around the planet and this change is without question caused by humans. Our fossil fuel based economy and culture of consumerism is contributing significantly to this process.

Already today communities are suffering from violence due to climate change related events. Syria and Somalia are at the frontline as droughts and famine driven by the changing natural conditions contribute to civil unrests. We are expecting 150 million climate refugees to leave their homes by 2050. Climate change related events contribute to destabilisation of governments and social cohesion in countries already struggling with variety of other challenges. Moreover, the consequences of our actions today will be borne by the future generations and are impacting mostly women and poor communities.

The role of SCI

All this means that if we are serious about living the SCI mission and values in a meaningful way, we have to answer the call for climate justice! Especially that it is often coming from the impacted communities in the countries where SCI and its partners are active.

There are three main areas of SCI's possible impacts:

- **Mitigation & Sustainable Living lowering our impact on the planet** (footprint), e.g. through supporting frontline communities opposing fossil project, improving cycling opportunities, introducing composting in your community, educating for resource saving;
- **Adaptation & Social Justice disaster relief** in case of natural disasters, which occur more often or with bigger intensity due to the changing climate, e.g. through organising workcamps in disaster areas in cooperation with local organisations;
- **Adaptation building resilience to impacts of climate change** (e.g. projects related to small-scale agriculture, permaculture, restoring natural habitats) **and of post-fossil fuel era** (e.g. urban farming, establishing local food distribution, introducing sharing economy projects).



Many of the solutions to climate change also contribute to the creation of more peaceful, solidary and inclusive society attributes that thousands of SCI activists are striving for since its very creation. **This is our chance for solidarity action, which will be meaningful and grassroots based!**

The SCI solutions

SCI branches and activists are working towards the new fossil fuel free, climate resilient future already. Examples of support to the impacted and frontline communities, educational activities and bringing real change to our local communities can be seen in Romania, India, Switzerland, Bangladesh, Kosovo, Sweden, Sri Lanka, Germany and others. **We want to recognise them and also multiply them until they become an absolute standard!** Through this the programme intends to make the climate justice dimension mainstream in SCI activities and through this **make SCI a meaningful and active part of the solution to the multidimensional climate crisis!**

Join “Climate for Peace”! Leave your handprint!

- Organise a “Climate for Peace” workcamp or adjust already existing workcamps to [“Climate for Peace” guidelines](#).
- Hold a camp coordinator training focused on issues of climate justice and sustainable living (for ideas of activities refer to [“Climate for Peace Toolkit”](#)).
- Create a “Climate for Peace” working group at your branch and organize projects in your community (for ideas see [“Climate for Peace: Inspirations”](#) booklet).
- Mainstream the idea in your branch by organising your activities and everyday work in a sustainable way.
- Apply for funds through [GAIA MicroGrants Programme](#) and organise an activity for climate change adaptation or for sustainable food systems.
- Organise a screening of “Climate for Peace” topic related movies at your office. Hold a discussion afterwards.

Let’s unify the ongoing efforts and provide guidance for those who want to join the activities, so that together we can work for SCI’s vision of the world. We can learn from each other, motivate each other and be the sign of the transforming world to each other **we are the inspiring spark for the movement we need to see in the world!**



Key words:

climate justice is a way of viewing climate change as an ethical issue and considering how its causes and effects relate to concepts of justice, particularly social justice and environmental justice, through examining issues such as equality, human rights, historical and individual responsibility.

climate injustice as greenhouse gases continue to heat up the earth's atmosphere and the most powerful governments remain largely inactive, the very existence of millions of people, particularly in the South and of future generations, is now threatened by both the inevitable immediate & long-term catastrophic effects of climate change. (from SCI, strategic plan)

sustainability the potential for long-term maintenance of well-being. Sustainability has environmental, economic, and social dimensions. In SCI, we focus on the environmental dimension, striving towards a "sustainable lifestyle" by all individuals, as defined by the Brundtland Commission in 1987: "[...] that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".(from SCI strategic plan)

ecological footprint our lifestyle choices make up our environmental footprint; it measures our demand on the Earth's ecosystems and the amount of nature's resources an individual, a community, or a country consumes in a given year. It describes negative impact on the planet.

ecological handprint in contrast to our ecological footprint, a handprint represents our positive impact. The ecological handprint is your contribution towards a sustainable future.

climate change long-term shift in weather patterns in a specific region or globally. Unlike global warming, which refers to just one aspect of climate change a rise in the surface temperature of the earth's surface – climate change refers to changes in regions overall weather patterns, including precipitation, temperatures, cloud cover, and so on.

manmade climate change in global climate patterns apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards, attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.

impacted communities are those that bear the disproportionate impact of climate change, fossil fuels and industrial activities, and tend to be of lower socioeconomic class.

frontline communities grassroots communities organized for action against the direct impacts of injustice or harm they experience

adaptation taking actions to prevent or minimize the effects of climate change that will bring change to local population etc. (adapt farming, houses, infrastructure etc.)

mitigation actions to reduce CO2 emissions due to our lifestyle (travelling, consumption etc.)