

# Briefing for faith groups, October 2025



[COP30](#), the UN Climate Change Conference, will take place at Belem in Brazil from Monday 10 November 2025 to Friday 21 November 2025. This briefing has been prepared for [Eco Congregation Scotland](#) and [Interfaith Scotland](#) to help raise awareness and encourage participation in environmental action across Scotland

## Context

The context for the conference is challenging.

- The US Government is openly hostile towards climate justice and, at the UN in September, Donald Trump described climate change as the "[greatest con job ever perpetrated on the world](#)". Other governments and the EU appear to be [stepping back](#) from earlier commitments.
- The process agreed at Cop21 in Paris to promote climate action is faltering. All countries that were signatories to the Paris agreement were supposed to submit updated '[Nationally Determined Contributions](#)' (NDCs) to the UN by February 2025, but only 62 had done so by September. 2024
- Development agencies like Oxfam argue that financial support to developing countries hardest hit by climate change [has not materialised](#) at the scale envisaged at earlier Cops.
- Oil companies and [banks are distancing themselves](#) from commitments on climate change. The [Net Zero Banking Alliance](#) folded in October 2025 and [development of new oil and gas resources](#) continues apace.
- It's not all bad news! In October 2025 [renewables overtook coal](#) as world's biggest source of electricity. Emissions of greenhouse gases have been [falling in the EU and USA](#). China, while still the largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions, excels in the production of [solar panels, wind turbines and battery technology](#), and the cost of these technologies has fallen rapidly. Sales of electric cars are increasing and most of Scotland's electricity now comes from low carbon wind power.

## **Demands for action at Cop30**

Latin American and Caribbean faith leaders met in Brazil in March 2025 and issued [A Call to Action towards COP30](#). Their message is that ‘Lack of action to phase out fossil fuels endangers our common home, as well as the very survival of Indigenous people’. The [Call to Action](#) demands that Cop30:

- Delivers on climate finance promises, urging governments to define how they will provide the \$1.3tn agreed at earlier Cops
- Ensures the full implementation of the Loss and Damage Fund
- Accelerates a just transition away from fossil fuel dependency
- Supports communities to adapt to climate change
- Prioritises the voices of those most impacted by climate change, including Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, children and youth, women and human rights defenders.

These demands from faith groups and organisations representing indigenous peoples represent a strong basis for lobbying by faith groups worldwide.

## **What can you do?**

Find out more: what does your faith group say about Cop30 and climate justice?

You can [find out more here](#) about faith groups concern for the environment . Some faith groups and NGOs have published resources including [Brahma Kumaris](#) , [Islamic Relief](#) and the [World Council of Churches](#) . The Anglican Communion is promoting [Lungs of the Earth](#) drawing attention to the Amazon rainforest, in which the Belem cop is located. Catholic bishops from the southern continents, on the tenth anniversary of Laudato si, have called for a [transformative approach to climate justice](#).

## **Get involved!**

The Scottish Government has reasserted ‘[tackling the climate emergency](#)’ as a priority. Can you help ensure this becomes a reality? Local action, spiritual reflection and advocacy are effective means for all faith groups to commit to climate justice.

[Eco Congregation Scotland](#) provides a range of resources including worship materials for churches and [Interfaith Scotland](#) provide resources for all faith groups. The [Scottish Episcopal Church](#) and [Church of Scotland](#) are encouraging all churches to become ‘net zero’. The UN [Interfaith Liaison Committee](#) will be holding online events including a Talanoa dialogue at Cop 30. In Scotland we can continue to press for action in Scotland and the rest of the UK. Engage with campaigning groups such [Stop Climate Chaos Scotland](#). You could join a march: [Scotland Demands Better](#) will hold a march in Edinburgh on 25 October and [Scotland’s Climate March](#) will be held in Glasgow on 15 November.

Follow the links and share with others. Does your place of worship, temple or meeting house have an environmental policy? Have you told your MSP or MP about your commitment to tackling the climate emergency? At a time of climate crisis, doing nothing is not an option: get involved!

*Adrian Shaw, 141025*

