

What Happened at COP?

On Thursday 27th January 2022, SGI-UK hosted a webinar reporting on the activities taken by SGI members and the Centre for Applied Buddhism in and around COP26 in November 2021, as well as looking towards COP27 which takes place in November 2022.

Chairing this webinar is **Harley Loudon**, an SGI-UK member from Scotland who was also part of “**The power of stories to transform narrative, How can we co-create the future?**” Storytelling event held at Websters, as part of SGI-UK’s **Seeds of Hope – Action for Climate Justice** events.

SGI-UK General Director **Robert Harrap** speaks about the actions both SGI-UK and The Centre For Applied Buddhism have been taking since 2020, such as organising the monthly webinar series which explore actions and responses to the climate crises, both from a Buddhist perspective, as well as from a multi-faith and organisational perspective. Robert shares how this has allowed SGI-UK to deepen its connections with other faith communities and organisations who are active in the sphere of climate issues.

We also hear how SGI has now been granted ‘Observer Status’ for the Negotiations at COP, and what that means for future COPs.

Miranda J Turner from Scotland shares her joyful experience of supporting the events hosted by SGI-UK at Websters.

Joan Anderson, senior co-ordinator of peace and global issues and media liaison at Soka Gakkai International in Japan, explains the background to the Seeds Of Hope and Action Exhibition, as well as sharing a little about Daisaku Ikeda’s 40th Peace Proposal, which was published on 26th January 2022.

Harley then fields some questions to the panel which also includes **Jamie Cresswell** (Director of The Centre For Applied Buddhism) and **Lucy Plummer** (Youth Engagement Coordinator). Each speak about their hopes, expectations and outcomes from their experiences at COP26, highlighting in particular the strength of unity seen within civil society and faith groups across the events in Glasgow.

Lucy expands on the climate movement from a youth perspective, highlighting that whilst it is great to have more young people involved in climate action, there is still a lot of work to do to give young people, especially from the Global South, a voice within the negotiations themselves.

Olivia Fuchs (Research Fellow with The Centre for Applied Buddhism) gives a presentation around her advocacy work with the interfaith Coalition, **Make COP Count**, in the lead up to and during COP26.

Towards the end of the webinar, we hear from members of SGI, who were able to take part in the Blue Zone at COP26, where the central negotiations took place:

Ana Romero was at COP26, negotiating as part of the Mexican Delegation, with a focus on education. Ana shares her experience as a negotiator, and all the intense efforts that take place behind the scenes.

Chiara De Paoli (SGI-Italy) speaks about her aims as a staff member of SGI-Italy going into COP26, and how she was able to deepen her understanding of the importance of a humanistic philosophy which empowers people being the foundation for which we take action for climate justice.

Alex Goossens-Ishii from SGI Office of UN Affairs reflected on the importance of solidarity and building connections and Lucy shared the importance of understanding climate justice from the perspective of people around the world’s right to participate. Lucy also highlighted the risk that many people face by speaking out for climate justice.