



**Statement of Commitment: On the occasion of the 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 26) Glasgow 2021**

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We the Scottish Religious Leaders' Forum, are united as people of faith in protecting the dignity of human life and creation. We look forward, with others throughout the UK, to welcoming delegates, guests and pilgrims from around the world to Glasgow and Scotland, whether in person or online. We look forward to offering you our hospitality, solidarity and support, to listening to you, and to learning from the stories of your lives and your communities.

We understand the gravity of the situation; the impact of climate change around the world; the inequality of its effects and the critical importance of decisions made in this conference to take forward the agreement made in Paris in 2015 (COP21).

We call for transformational change in our lives, our communities, our economies and our governments. We recognise that humanity has exploited the planet, causing climate change and that the burden of loss and damage falls most heavily on the poor, especially women and children. We call for care for each other and care of the earth to be the highest duty in all our lives.

As the Scottish Religious Leaders' Forum, **we commit** to respond to this challenge by:

- ❖ **Reflecting deeply** in prayer, meditation and worship to discern how to care for the earth and each other, and to encourage our respective communities to do the same
- ❖ **Making transformational change** in our own lives and in the lives of our communities through individual and collective action.
- ❖ **Being advocates for justice** by calling on governments, businesses and others who exercise power and influence to put into effect the Paris agreement; to make the transition to a just and green economy a priority; and to commit to science-based targets that are aligned with a healthy, resilient, zero-emissions future.

We recognise the enormity of this task, especially for rich countries whose models of production, consumption, development and waste have caused many of the current climate-related problems. We ask those who visit us from around the world, especially those from countries who experience the worst consequences of climate change, to guide us. We conclude with an excerpt from a traditional Scottish blessing and Gaelic greeting;

*And may the blessing of the earth be on you  
Soft under your feet as you pass along the roads*

**Ceud mìle fàilte**  
*A hundred thousand welcomes*