



CLIMATE  
JUSTICE  
CHARTER  
MOVEMENT

# NEWSLETTER

#2: December 2021

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Has your organisation endorsed it?  
You can do so [here](#)

## EDITORIAL

It's been a very busy quarter. Thank you to all who have shared their stories, photographs and campaigns. Please keep sending them to us. I hope that in 2022, we can get some feature articles to let the movement know what you or your organisation are doing. For any advice or information that you would like to share please send an email to [feradam@gmail.com](mailto:feradam@gmail.com)

In this issue, we share reports on submissions and workshops, hosted talks by Sumangala Damodaran on 'Music and the Radical Impulse', CJCM Assembly on World Food Day, Day of Action on 6 November, Protest to demand Parliament adopt the Charter on 9 November and followed the key positions from the ailing and failing COP26.

### COP 26

The COP 26 has been described as the most exclusionary COP so far. The fossil fuel lobby were welcomed on a red carpet, while many people from the frontlines of climate impacts were shut out by restrictive visas, soaring travel costs and vaccine apartheid.

With so little global south representation, it is no surprise that the outcome of COP26 leaves developed countries free to keep polluting whilst giving the green light for massive land grabs for offsets in developing countries.

Friends of the Earth International provided a good summary of the outcomes from COP26:

- 1.5 target and ambition undermined by Nature Based Solutions, weak Net Zero target and a green light to carbon markets

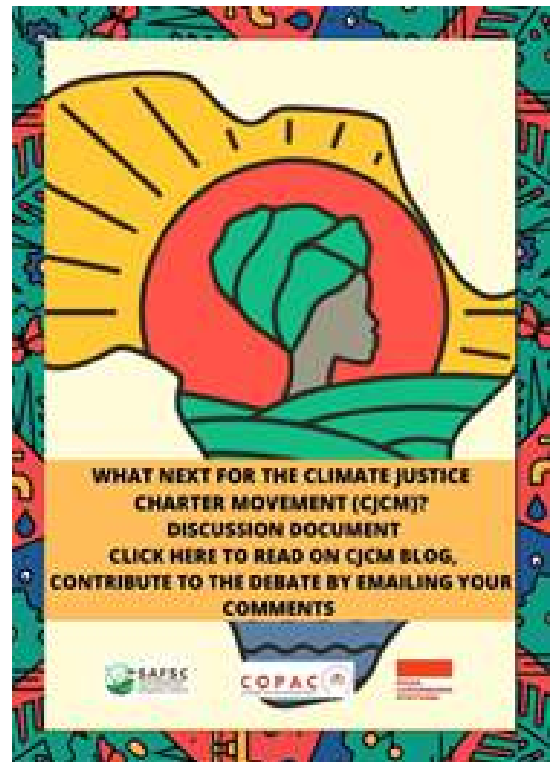
- the text erases historical responsibilities and common but differentiated responsibility of countries
- For the first time in the last two decades of UNFCCC negotiations, Fossil Fuels were mentioned but text is watered down and very weak
- Almost nothing on the table to increase climate finance, including loss and damage
- There was a slew of announcements outside of the formal negotiations at the COP but these were light on substance, not backed up with concrete plans for implementation, and not connected to the actual negotiations, and full of loopholes and caveats.

### Aluta Continua

COP26 has emphasised the importance of building bottom-up grassroots movements and organisations. Governments do not have the political will and courage to deal with climate change.

We must continue building the CJCM. Climate extremes are now a lived reality and part of a new planetary awareness; the terrain of struggle today is how fast and deep is the just transition to achieve transformative decarbonisation, systemic adaptation and regeneration. For this we need a climate justice project grounded in the needs of the people. We have broken this ground and need to take it further with transformative movement building, pathways and tools from below to make change happen in communities and workplaces and to remake the state into a people driven climate justice state! How we position and deepen our work around this is critical.

We have been exploring WHAT NEXT for the CJCM and we are inviting all in the movement to submit their comments and contribute to the discussion. Here is the [Link](#)



No matter what comes our way, we have to try to win! This is not an absolutist conception of victory but simply means saving as many as possible from harm and suffering!

**Onwards!**

## CJCM UPDATES, ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SUBMISSIONS

#### South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC)

The CJCM made a submission to the SAHRC on the state of water in the Limpopo province and in the country.

The water crisis is a national one and therefore must have a holistic approach.

It is not good enough to conduct piecemeal hearings in different places when it is clear that this is a national crisis. Our water resources are being affected by climate change, industrial and agricultural pollution, corruption and inefficient municipalities. The submission concluded with a few demands - The SAHRC must encourage local governments need to connect with activist citizen science groups to ensure that water is being monitored by people on the ground and who can hold government accountable for poor water quality.

In Limpopo, there are recent studies that have provided a picture on the state of water in the province, it is time for action. The South African Human Rights Commission must push for this action in its recommendations. For the full submission visit the CJCM website

### **The Oil and Gas Bill**

At the end of July, the CJCM submitted detailed comments on the Oil and Gas Bill - a clear case of South African government's double speak on reducing their fossil fuel reliance. The submission argues that this bill violates section 24 of the constitution, and that accenting this bill into law will accelerate the greenhouse effect and lead to further heating. It concludes with the argument that assenting this bill into law will make it impossible for us to reach net-zero by 2050.

The CJCM presented the submission to parliament at the end of November 2021.

## **EVENTS**

### **o Public Seminar**

In October, the Emancipatory Futures Studies in the Anthropocene project at Wits, an endorsee and active supporter of CJCM, hosted a seminar by Dr Sumangala Damodaran on Music and the Radical Impulse and a public lecture on "Music, Politics and Resistance in Contemporary India". Both were well attended with lively and informative discussions

Dr Damodaran shared her wealth of knowledge and experience - sharing in words and song. She is presently a Professor of Economics, Development Studies and Popular Music Studies at Ambedkar University Delhi. Apart from her academic involvements as an economist and social scientist, she is also a singer and composer. Her archiving and documentation of the musical tradition of the Indian People's Theatre Association from the 1940s and 1950s has resulted in a book titled "The Radical Impulse: Music in the Tradition of the IPTA" and an album titled 'Songs of Protest' and she has performed from the documented repertoire extensively in different parts of the country and abroad.

She has also collaborated with poets and musicians from South Africa around a project titled 'Insurrections' which has resulted in four albums.



## ACTIVITIES

It has been another busy quarter for the CJCM. We are happy to share some of the highlights:

- o **World Food Day:** An online Assembly was held on 16th October, one year since we handed the CJ Charter to parliament.

The assembly had leading activists from the global South who created links to the local struggles. The speakers included Nnimmo Bassey (Health of Mother Earth Foundation Nigeria) and Dorothy Guerrero (COP 26 Climate Justice organiser). Charles Simane of COPAC presented the CJCM critique of political part manifestos.

The CJCM is a growing movement and was evidence in the inputs from youth, academic, labour, and other activists.

Across the country, CJCM partners held actions. The Children's Resource Centre had their action activity around Climate Justice and World Food day in 8 communities, which followed with a Community Feed programme.



Inanda



Inanda



Phoenix



Southern Centre for Land Change (SCLC) in the Western Cape



Mitchells Plain

### CJCM Engagements at Universities

The CJCM handed over the CJC to the DVC Pro Imraan Valodia and received a positive outcome from Wits University. The VC tabled a report at the Senate on 4 November “proposing the appointment of a Pro Vice-Chancellor (ProVC) for Climate Sustainability and Inequality, to lead the University’s multifaceted and multi-disciplinary approach to addressing the challenge of climate sustainability.”

The appointment of a ProVC for climate and inequality is very welcome. The information has been shared with students and other allies. Moving forward, we look forward to work with the ProVC on the strategy. This builds on our existing food sovereignty work at Wits. All of this work will certainly feed into wider engagements at Wits.

For more on this <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-11-25-wits-council-resolves-to-appoint-pro-vice-chancellor-for-climate-sustainability-and-inequality/>

At Stellenbosch University, students have been engaging with the university on the Sustainability Charter that is being developed but has not yet been shared with students. In addition, the students have started to build a broader network/movement that includes representatives from all societies and will be further developed in 2022.

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CLIMATE JUSTICE CHARTER AT SU**

- 29TH APRIL 2021**  
The CJC is presented to SU's 'Environmental Sustainability Manager', John De Wet. No real email correspondence follows from this proposal.
- 9TH JUNE 2021**  
The CJC is presented to the SRC at a weekly meeting. Various portfolios express support, and correspondence is channelled through the SRC sustainability portfolio.
- JUNE - AUGUST 2021**  
Various attempts are made to make progress with the SRC sustainability portfolio to no avail.
- 3 AUGUST 2021**  
Presentation of CJC to Prof Eugene Cloete (Vice Dean for Teaching and Research, SU). Suggestion of working committee to be started to 'vet' the charter.
- 11 AUGUST 2021**  
Engagements between Prof O. Ruppel, Prof G. Madgley and Prof S. Liebenberg and student representatives begin in earnest.
- AUGUST - OCTOBER 2021**  
In aiming to find a practical space for the constructive discussions in the working group, contact is made with Dr B. Pool (Senior Director: Strategic Initiatives at SU).
- 13 OCTOBER 2021**  
A meeting is called including Dr B. Pool, Mr J. De Wet and other representatives from SU where the CJC is tabled and discussed. A "SU Environmental Charter" is soon to be published; a working group and inclusion of student representatives is called for.
- 16 OCTOBER 2021**  
A public student engagement is held on World Food Day, to discuss the CJC and the steps forward for adoption at SU.

**TO BE CONTINUED!**

## The CJCM Alternative to COP26 on 6 November

The CJCM held a powerful alternative session on COP26 titled 'Broken Promises, Broken Climate'. The session opened with a deeply moving photo exhibition by Daylin Paul that shows the devastation caused by coal. His pictures told a thousand words but also surfaced deep emotions.

Vishwas Satgar led the discussion on eco-fascism and ecocide. An important aspect of the CJC is the solutions and pathways being developed in the various tools - For example, the Deep Just Transition Tool and the Climate Justice Deal Tool. The tools were presented and allowed for input and discussion to improve the documents.



The poster features a colorful, abstract border. At the top, it displays the Climate Justice Charter Movement logo. The main title is 'CJCM ALTERNATIVE TO COP 26'. Below this is the 'AGENDA' section with four bullet points: 'Photo exhibit on coal and its impacts by Daylin Paul', 'Youth discussion on Broken Promises and Broken climate', 'Debate on Eco-fascism and Ecocide', and 'Workshopping CJCM tools'. The event details are '6 November 2021 (Saturday) 2:00 - 5:00 PM (SAST)' with a link for zoom registration. Logos for SAFSC, COPAC, and the South African Parliament are at the bottom.

CLIMATE JUSTICE CHARTER MOVEMENT

### CJCM ALTERNATIVE TO COP 26

#### AGENDA

- Photo exhibit on coal and its impacts by Daylin Paul
- Youth discussion on Broken Promises and Broken climate
- Debate on Eco-fascism and Ecocide
- Workshopping CJCM tools

6 November 2021 (Saturday)  
2:00 - 5:00 PM (SAST)  
[Click Here for zoom registration](#)

SAFSC COPAC

## Day of Action at Parliament on 9 November 2021



The poster shows a photograph of the Parliament building. Below the image, the text reads: '9 NOVEMBER 2-5 PM', 'Our Parliament is a carbon criminal!', and 'Join us for a Human Chain at Parliament!'. A quote states: 'Instead of adopting the CJC, our parliament is taking us on a ecocidal path with the oil and gas bill, we are returning to ask why they have not adopted the CJC'. Logos for COPAC, Climate Justice Charter Movement, and SAFSC are at the bottom.

9 NOVEMBER 2-5 PM

**Our Parliament is a carbon criminal!**

**Join us for a Human Chain at Parliament!**

Instead of adopting the CJC, our parliament is taking us on a ecocidal path with the oil and gas bill, we are returning to ask why they have not adopted the CJC

COPAC CLIMATE JUSTICE CHARTER MOVEMENT SAFSC

In response to Parliament's inaction and silence on adopting the Climate Justice Charter, the CJCM took the fight to parliament and demanded an audience with parliament. More than 200 people attended the protest. There was space for groups in the CJCM to speak and explain the importance of their struggles. The speakers included many youth and scholars as young as 12years old.



The speakers arrived in a fire truck to highlight the impacts of climate change and fires. In addition the CJCM handed over gifts to key portfolio committees that included a solar light, float and non-GMO seeds that symbolised the energy, food, water links.



## PRESS RELEASES AND MEDIA COVERAGE AND ENGAGEMENTS

19 September: Press Statement: CJCM memorandum of demands to Wits University

3 October: Opinion piece by Vishwas Satgar in Sunday Times: SA the climate pariah needs to change its ways

14 October: Vishwas Satgar interviewed on Newzroom Afrika about SA's climate change and RE <https://youtu.be/h6mGPJUgIW0>

19 October: A powerful opinion piece written for Daily Maverick by Charles Simane Awande Buthelezi, Vishwas Satgar and Ferrial Adam - *Crisis, what crisis? Three major parties in election in denial over the climate crisis*

19 October: Charles Simane interviewed on Valley FM on party manifestos.

20 October: Charles Simane interviewed on Radio 786 on party manifestos.

20 October; Press statement: COPAC: Submission at the SAHRC's Inquiry into access to water in Limpopo

22 October: Press statement: CJCM Critique of Political Party Manifestos for the local government elections

October: Vishwas Satgar interviewed on radio 786 about the UN climate report:

<https://m.soundcloud.com/radio-786-100-4fm/un-climate-report-and-sub-saharan-africa-radio-786>

October: Charles Simane interviewed on Newzroom Afrika about advancing the CJCM critique of political party climate denialism.



October: Vishwas Satgar was interviewed by French TV at the Wits food gardens:



November: Ferrial Adam and Vishwas Satgar were interviewed on eNCA to talk about the November 9th protest in front of Parliament.

9 November: Press statement: Declaration: South Africa's Parliament and All Political Parties are Carbon Criminals!

## NATIONAL NEWS

Marine activists up in arms over Shell's planned seismic survey in seas off Eastern Cape (Daily Maverick)

Watch: Heavy rains cause flooding in Garden Route, motorists warned to stay off the roads (News 24)

South Africa's energy transition package: still in green and brown camouflage (the Conversation)

How South Africa could pay for a universal basic income (Business Tech)

How unequal is South Africa (StatsSA)

Climate tipping points could topple like dominoes, warn scientists (The Guardian)

## REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Is this real decarbonisation?

[https://www.volvogroup.com/en/news-and-media/news/2021/oct/news-4088346.html?sc\\_cid=soco-oFOVIQ0v](https://www.volvogroup.com/en/news-and-media/news/2021/oct/news-4088346.html?sc_cid=soco-oFOVIQ0v)  
The invest gap in renewables is still huge. IEA calls for tripling of renewable energy investment or more. It also says no to new oil and gas investments!

World faces climate catastrophe, warns energy agency (TimesLive)

## RESOURCES

**NEW: CJCM Podcast series**

We are very happy to announce the launch of our podcast series. Here is a taste of what is to come:



You can find the first episode of our new podcast on all podcast platforms or below at this [link](#).



## Some interesting reads:

Democratic Marxism Volume 6: *Destroying Democracy: Neoliberal capitalism and the rise of authoritarian politics*. For those who missed it, here is a link to the recording of the Democratic Marxism Volume 6 book launch:

<https://youtu.be/4TYsIM5w5Cs>

You can download the open access book [here](#).

A good read on Vaccine Apartheid by Dorothy Guerrero. She writes of the global condition we see now where millions have already died and millions more will continue to die in premature and unnatural deaths to allow a few to become billionaires is nothing short of a strategy of social murder. Read the article [here](#).

## CJCM links:

Find all CJCM resources on our website: [cjcm.org.za](http://cjcm.org.za)

Link to the [petition](#) for parliament to adopt the Charter

Link to [endorse](#) the charter as an organisation.

Continue to send your photos to the [Ark of South African Life](#)

# WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE CJCM?

## Activities to look forward to in 2022

As we break for the year, we have developed an exciting plan for next year to intensify our campaigns and fight for climate justice.

We have set out the next steps for the CJCM. It would be great if you can read the [document](#) and share your thoughts and ideas with us.

As we know, the CJC was generated from below and is now on the national agenda of the country, including the parliament. The CJCM is a rising force in South Africa. With the parliament ignoring the demand for the Charter to be adopted as per section 234 of the South African constitution and confirming its commitment to a shallow just transition. It also brings to the close this phase of two years of campaigning to mainstream the CJC in public discourse.

The next phase of our CJCM campaigning is about intensifying the climate justice struggle guided by this experience of confronting a carbon criminal ruling class and worsening climate and systemic crises.