# CLIMATE JUSTICE OR CLIMATE CHANGE

THE CLIMATE COALITION

Climate change is complex. This brief activity will help young people to begin to explore the meanings of the distinct terms '**climate justice**' and '**climate change**' and to consider the extent to which climate change is about human rights and inequality. This question is often overlooked when people talk about climate change because people often focus on the impact of climate change on the natural world and the environment.

Talking about climate justice points more explicitly towards the things that are unfair about climate change and how to make them fairer, while talking about climate change points towards the science behind the causes and effects of climate change.

**Time:** 15 minutes

**What to do:**

1. Print and cut out the statements on the following page. Prepare one set of statements for each small group of young people.

2. Ask the young people to read and discuss each statement in turn and then organise the statements into two categories: **climate justice statements** and **climate change statements**.

3. Alternatively read out the statements one by one and ask the young people to raise their hands or stand up to indicate whether they think each statement is about climate justice or climate change.

4. Finish by asking the young people to agree their own definitions of **climate justice** and **climate change** and write these down.

Ask young people to decide whether each statement is about climate justice or climate change.
*Photo: Andy Aitchison/Oxfam*

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| Climate Justice Statements | Climate Change Statements |
|---|---|
| People living in places with the highest levels of poverty experience the worst effects of climate change. | Burning fossil fuels releases greenhouse gases into the air. This causes the earth to heat up |
| Climate change often affects young people more than older people. | Climate change is leading to a loss of natural life everywhere. |
| Often, climate change affects women and girls more than men and boys. | Climate change affects everybody in some way. Everybody will need to do some things differently. |
| Rising sea levels affect people who live on the Pacific islands more than people who live in mountainous areas. | As temperatures rise the polar ice caps are melting. This is leading to rising sea levels. |
| Wealthier countries have usually burned more fossil fuels than countries with less wealth | Many human activities cause climate change. These include transport, farming and how we heat our homes |
| Wealthier countries and people are able to protect themselves better from the effects of climate change than countries and people with less wealth | Climate change is changing weather patterns - for example temperature and rainfall - in many different ways. |
| The countries responsible for the lowest carbon emissions unfairly experience the worst impacts of climate change | Driving the car less, turning the heat down and recycling can all help to reduce a person's individual carbon emissions |

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