

# COP26 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE



**PROJECT PROPOSAL  
2021 - 2022**

**FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND**

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## **PART ONE: PROJECT OVERVIEW**

### **OVERVIEW**

We are delighted to announce that between the 16th of November 2021 and the 16th of November 2022 the Sikh Human Rights Group (a Non-Governmental Organisation with Special Consultative Status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council) will be conducting our COP26 Youth Engagement Initiative, and we would very much like your students and staff to become actively involved.

To give you an insight into our current project between the 4th and the 6th of November 2021 our Human Rights Officers and Project Coordinators took secondary school students (16+) and undergraduate students to COP26. Our Human Rights Officers and Project Coordinators come from a range of backgrounds including UK Barristers, medical professionals, university lecturers, international relations experts and human rights campaigners who have been actively involved in a myriad of human rights issues for over 40 years. Consequently, this provided the students with an unparalleled insight into the type and form of career paths that they may like to take but just as importantly it allowed them to gain a rare insight into the various ways that we as a global society can come together in order to mitigate and adapt to the negative impacts of climate change.

However, our engagement with young members of our society does not stop there as we are thrilled to announce that we are currently searching for student participants for our COP26 Youth Engagement Initiative.

The primary purpose to which is threefold:

**(1)** Firstly, by running a series of practitioner-led and/or academic-led environmental conservation workshops and seminars (January 2022 to July 2022) within your school, college or university we hope to educate and upskill students from a variety of backgrounds on the practical environmental conservation methods they can undertake within their local communities, supported by us, to help their local communities plan for and/or mitigate and adapt to the negative and imminent impacts of climate change. Our hope and primary focus is on ensuring that these students will then be enabled to take these project planning and implementation skills with them into later life.

**(2)** Secondly, we hope to benefit our local communities by having students plant no less than 100 trees, encourage a cycle to school and work initiative as well as host a series of student-led environmental conservation workshops, seminars and lectures (March 2022 to November 2022) for their friends, families, teachers and select members of civil society.

**(3)** Finally through our Special Consultative Status at the United Nations, we will offer some students the opportunity to submit written and/or oral statements at United Nations environmental conservation conferences and events in order to further cement their knowledge and commitment to helping their local communities overcome the many challenges of climate change.

Therefore, in summary our objective is to provide your students with the requisite knowledge, training and support to become independent environmental campaigners and strengthen local community knowledge and commitment through the joint planning and implementation of practical environmental conservation projects.

## **PART TWO: PROJECT TARGETS**

### **TARGETS**

**(1)** Take secondary school children (16+) and undergraduate students to COP26.

**(2)** Conduct a series of practitioner-led and/or academic-led educational engagements events for secondary school students and university students. The primary objective is to upskill and educate the students on all of the various ways that they can either individually or collectively help to mitigate and adapt to the negative impacts of climate change.

**(3)** Following on from the above we will then conduct a series of student-led environmental conservation workshops, seminars, lectures and practical projects primarily targeted at further engaging civil society in the climate emergency.

**(4)** Plant no less than 100 trees.

**(5)** Engage the students in and have them conduct a cycle to school and work initiative (social media campaign).

**(6)** Bringing together students and local community representatives to decide on, plan for and implement joint environmental conservation projects within the local area.

**(7)** Offer some students the opportunity to make oral and/or written submissions to the United Nations Human Rights Council. Most likely on the importance of generational collaboration in our global fight to mitigate and adapt to the negative impacts of climate change.



## **PART THREE: PROJECT AMBITIONS**

### **AMBITIONS**

#### **SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF LONG-TERM CLIMATE ACTION WITHIN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

Our project will support the development of long-term climate action within our local communities by engaging, educating and upskilling students and members of civil society in all of the various ways that they can individually and collectively help to mitigate and adapt to the negative impacts of climate change.

N.B. We are particularly interested in engaging students aged 16 to 18 in this ambition

#### **ENCOURAGE THE LOCAL COMMUNITY TO PLAN FOR THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

Our project will encourage the local community to plan for the climate emergency by bringing together students and local community representatives to decide on, plan for and if at all possible implement joint environmental conservation projects within the local area. In other words, our ambition is not only for the students themselves to formulate and implement school, college or university specific projects but also to co-ordinate larger projects in conjunction with local community authorities and leaders. For not only will this enhance the likelihood of these projects accurately reflecting the wider needs of the community but also the various ideological standpoints within the community.

#### **CELEBRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY-LED CLIMATE ACTION AND ENCOURAGE MORE PEOPLE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN CLIMATE CONSERVATION**

In Sikh Human Rights Groups opinion young voices have often been heard but ignored during international climate change conferences and negotiations although they have been found to influence their families attitudes more successfully than third party companies or NGOs. Therefore, we will address this by bringing together young persons and adults (who possess the necessary skills and resources that are required to amplify the voices of younger people) to decide upon areas of common agreement and/or understanding. We will then help them to implement their local community environmental conservation projects. Furthermore, in order to encourage their local commitment we will incentivise them further by helping them to prepare and submit a joint oral and/or written statement to the United Nations Human Rights Council on the importance of generational collaboration.

## **PART FOUR: RESOURCES REQUIRED**

### **RESOURCES**

Our COP26 Youth Engagement Initiative is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. Therefore, all that we will require from your school, college or university to conduct our initiative is the following:

#### **Essential**

- Access to event space (classroom, seminar room, lecture hall etc...);
- Access to and the use of onsite IT facilities (i.e. electronic white board or projector);
- Advertisement of our initiative to your students, staff and parents (SHRG will take primary responsibility for drafting the advertisements); and a
- School representative. Who will take responsibility for the coordination of our initiative within your school (most likely a volunteer teacher or lecturer).

#### **Desired**

- If at all possible we ask those who are interested in participating in this initiative to consider whether they could donate a plot of land towards the students tree planting initiative; and
- Whether they could provide refreshments during our student-led environmental conservation workshops, seminars and lectures to the general public.

### **IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- All Sikh Human Rights Group employees who are directly involved in this initiative or will have direct contact with your students possess an up-to-date Enhanced DBS Check and have undertaken a CPD Certified Advanced Safeguarding Children (Level 2) qualification.
- At no point throughout our COP26 Youth Engagement Initiative will your students be taken to or arrange any form of demonstration, protest, unlawful activism etc... The sole purpose of this initiative is to provide your students with extracurricular education and training.





## PART FIVE: SHRG REFLECTIONS ON OUR TRIP TO COP26

I would like to personally thank the National Lottery Community Fund for facilitating our attendance at COP26. Not only were our students inspired by the events that they attended but consequently they are now extremely keen to carry this initiative forward.

After discussions held on Friday the 12th of November 2021 I am delighted to announce that a large number of the students will be hosting environmental conservation engagement events within their schools, colleges and universities.

Therefore, please keep up-to-date with their progress by visiting our social media accounts at: [shrg\\_ngo](#)

Yours sincerely,  
Mr Carlos Arbuthnott

Human Rights Officer & Project Coordinator

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**Instagram:** [shrg\\_ngo](#)

**Twitter:** [@shrg\\_ngo](#)



The opportunity to attend COP26 was truly invaluable. In the space of a few days, my eyes were opened to different perspectives on how the climate crisis is impacting the globe whilst also being able to network with organisations who have the same objective but follow a different path to achieving it. Attending COP26 with students associated with the Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha created the opportunity to have an open discussion about their future in the midst of a climate crisis and the stresses they face that weren't at the forefront of my mind when I was that age.

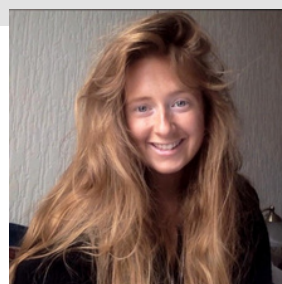
Hearing how fondly the students talked about their experience at COP26 and hearing how they intend to take what they learnt from the conferences and side events at COP26 to implement positive change in their local communities was exceptionally encouraging and all we could have hoped for. I am excited to have had a conversation with the female students on the trip to talk about women's role in the climate crisis, we spoke about what we can do to ensure women are represented. Four of the students have joined our Female Empowerment Series project which will involve them doing amongst various other things research, networking and marketing for the Sikh Human Rights Groups side event at the United Nations CSW66 in March 2022. That covers the right for women to have access to and knowledge on sustainable sanitary products and ensure there is safety to all women with particular attention to refugees, the homeless and women who do not have easy access to clean water.

COP26 has highlighted that we all have a different perspective on the world but unfortunately, those who are making the decisions are not necessarily representative of the global population. In other words, if you continue to speak to only a certain demographic, then only that demographic will listen!

Yours sincerely,  
Ms Bethan Walters

Human Rights, Communications and Media Officer

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## **PART SIX: STUDENTS REFLECTIONS ON OUR TRIP TO COP26**



**Mr Brahmjot Singh**

**18 Years Old**

**University of Leicester**

To watch the full video please click [here](#)



**Ms Davina Kaur Sohal**

**20 Years Old**

**SOAS University of London**

To watch the full video please click [here](#)



## **PART FIVE: STUDENTS REFLECTIONS**



**Mr Kirit Sidhu**  
**16 Years Old**  
**Heston Community School**

To watch the full video please click [here](#)



**Ms Navneet Sehmbi**  
**16 Years Old**  
**Tiffin School**

To watch the full video please click [here](#)

## PART FIVE: CONTACT INFORMATION

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Alternatively please visit our:

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**Twitter: [@shrg\\_ngo](https://twitter.com/shrg_ngo)**

