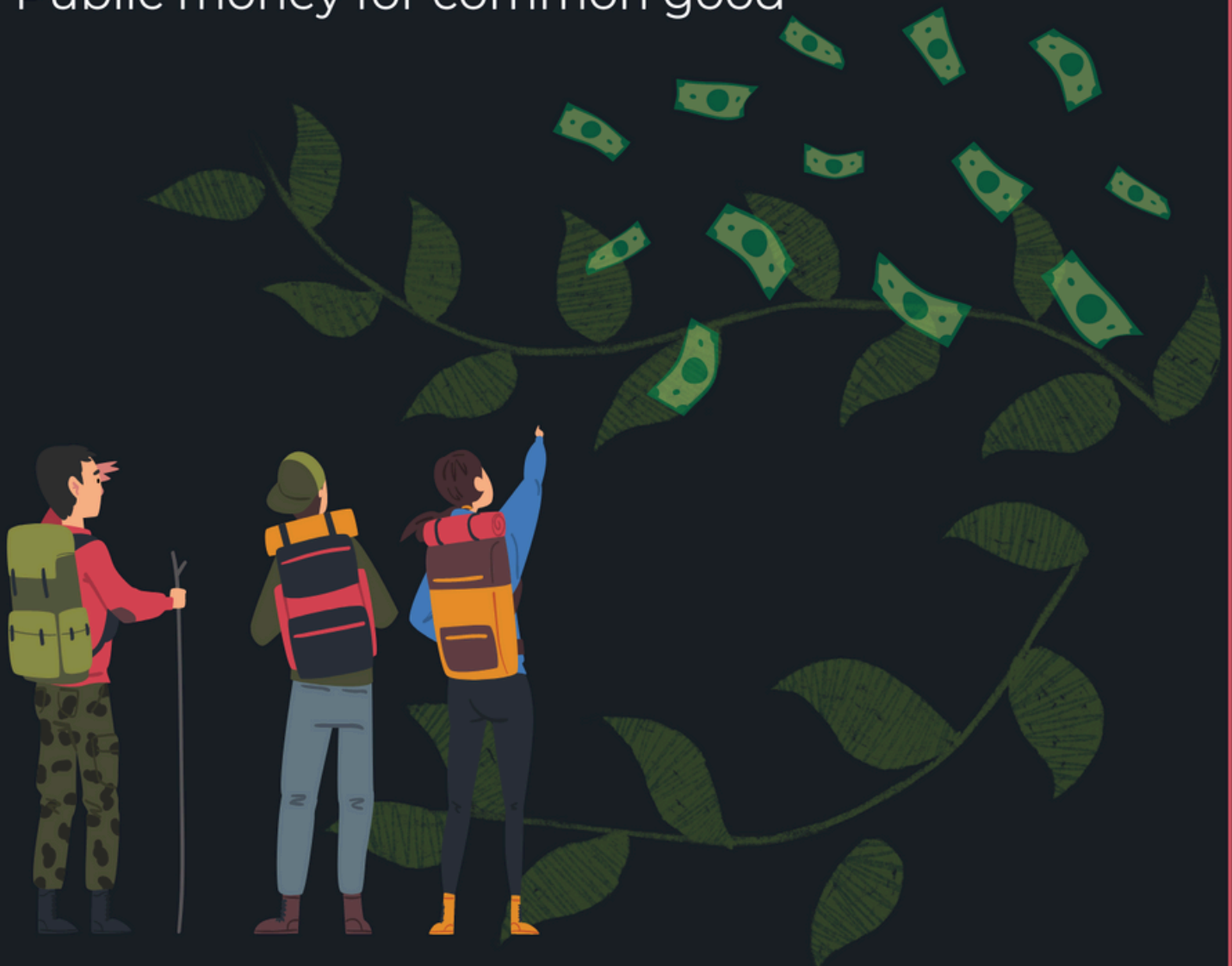




# YOUTH CALL TO ACTION

---

'Public money for common good'





The UK Youth Climate Coalition is a voluntary, consensus-led, non-hierarchy, and non-profit organisation, made up of 18-29 year olds from across the country. UKYCC's mission is to mobilise and empower young people to take action to achieve global climate justice.

This call to action was developed by our members to demand that the UK government put the rights and needs of people and planet at the heart of decision-making, and empower young people to shape the actions that will define our futures.





## PUBLIC MONEY FOR COMMON GOOD

The UK government spends around £1.2 trillion each year, and a significant portion of this public money is actively contributing to the interconnected crises facing people and planet. From subsidies for polluters and profiteers, to massive spending on military violence and hostile borders, private profits and exploitation are being prioritised over economic, social, and environmental justice.

Years of austerity brought about the 'systemic immiseration of millions across Great Britain', per the UN; our military and migration policies have contributed directly to a genocide in Palestine, and the deaths of hundreds of asylum seekers; and we subsidise fossil fuel and biomass companies to the tune of over £14.1 billion each year. For young people, it is clear that the government of today is only fuelling the fires that we will have to fight.

We call on those in power to commit to **public money for common good**: investing in people-centred solutions that advance our collective wellbeing, both now and in future; empowering communities to lead this economic and social transformation; rejecting austerity in order to tackle inequality; and divesting from drivers of deprivation and destruction, to advance human rights and global justice.

## 1. Decision-making frameworks for the common good

From national to local level, authorities must align spending with the needs of people and planet, to ensure divestment from harmful industries such as fossil fuels and arms dealing, and investment into essential services, from healthcare and housing to food and clean energy.

- Integrate social and environmental justice into all spending decisions; these priorities must be integrated into any fiscal frameworks, and actively upheld by the Treasury and Office for Budget Responsibility.
- Shift the Bank of England's remit to put social and environmental justice on equal footing with other economic priorities.
- Ensure that social value principles are built into planning (including housing and transport) and procurement processes, including through social licensing for providers.
- Pass a Future Generations Act requiring public bodies to integrate the rights and needs of current and future generations into decision-making processes.





## 2. Participatory governance, putting people at the heart of the economy

The clearest route to advancing the common good is putting power and ownership in the hands of those who use and depend on these systems. This means devolution of economic powers and diversification of ownership models, as well as inclusion of affected communities in all levels of decision-making.

- Guarantee representation (not just consultation) of affected communities, including youth, in decision-making frameworks on policy and spending, both locally and nationally.
- Promote public and community ownership of economic assets - from nationalisation of public goods and services, to legislation advancing Community Wealth Building.
- Deliver national and regional investment in community-led solutions, including co-operatives and social enterprises, that can tackle economic and environmental crises in parallel.
- Advance new models for deliberative democracy, such as citizens' assemblies and participatory budgeting.
- Engage youth in global decision-making, on issues like Kick Big Polluters Out (calling for an end to fossil fuel lobbying in international climate negotiations) and the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.



### 3. Redistribute wealth and invest in our future

Failing to invest in economic transformation and environmental action will only exacerbate the challenges we face, and increase the burden on young people and future generations. Where increased spending is needed, it is essential that the richest - those who have benefitted most from our deeply unequal society - pay their fair share.

- Increase investment in sustainable energy, housing, transport, healthcare, and other sectors that are essential for people's wellbeing.
- Abandon arbitrary fiscal rules that uphold austerity and block investment in our future.
- Introduce a permanent and progressive windfall tax on excessive profits, and an end to subsidies for harmful practices - especially those which depend on the exploitation of people and planet, such as by fossil fuel and biomass companies.
- Prioritise fair and progressive taxation - such as a wealth tax for the super-rich, increased tax on capital gains and investment income, and clamping down on tax avoidance and evasion.





## 4. Stop funding genocide, and advance global justice

There can be no climate justice without human rights, and no end to inequality in the UK without an end to global inequality. The UK's complicity in Israel's genocide in Palestine is the latest example in our country's long history of violence, oppression, and exploitation, at home and around the world. This needs to change: human rights and global justice must be advanced through every action we take.

- Demand an immediate and permanent ceasefire, an end to Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine, and the prosecution of all those responsible at the International Court of Justice.
- Permanently end the supply and trade of all military arms, as well as other forms of support, to actors engaged in genocide and human rights abuses, including Israel.
- Deliver urgent debt relief and climate finance (as grants, not loans) to countries in the Global South who are hit hardest by environmental crisis and entrenched economic inequality, a product of colonialism.
- Provide safe and legal routes for migration, and end the persecution of all marginalised communities in the UK – including on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexuality, and disability.
- Scrap the undemocratic and unlawful Public Order Act 2023 and other repressive policies that label direct action taken by protesters as terrorist activity or public nuisance.



**Public money for common good is not an end goal, but a means through which we can transform every sector of society for the better. People and planet are not incidental to the economy, we *are the economy*, and it only works if it works for us - today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.**





