

CROSS-COMMUNITY CLIMATE SUMMIT

DUBLIN 1 - IRELAND - SATURDAY 28TH OF NOVEMBER 2015



The #Croke21 Declaration

We - Eileen, Fabienne, Grace, Kathryn, Linda, Lucie, Raphaele, Sheila, Steffania, Cruz, Daniel, Denis, Long, Mairtin, Mark, Michael, Patrick and Pierre, just a small number of people on this planet - make this declaration.

We grew up in different countries across the world including Australia, Brazil, China, England, France, Ireland, Mexico, Spain or Venezuela. **Today we are citizens of Dublin and often we meet near Croke Park, in one of the most deprived areas of Dublin's city centre. We live in different parts of the city, some of which have been marginalised for far too long.**

We love our families and love meeting people. We all have strong roots in our own countries. We also love our planet: walking in mountains -high mountains if possible; running against the wind; listening to birds singing in the quiet of the morning; watching sunrises and sunsets; playing football; walking along rivers or along the seaside; and discovering natural forests and wildlife.

During our #Croke21 meeting we discussed global warming, pollution and the impact on the environment of human behaviour. **Everyone on the planet is affected by climate change** and many animal and plant species are endangered. We already know that many species have become extinct and many more will follow.

Temperatures are rising. Ice is melting. Soil and rocks are eroding. Desert areas will get drier and become larger. Farming is affected by heavy rains, flooding or droughts. Sea levels will rise and islands will disappear.

Climate change and pollution means animal and human beings are forced to be on the move. We can't tell anymore what the weather will be like. We also see that we continue to experiment with the planet. With fracking, a technique designed to recover gas and oil from shale rock in the earth, will we trigger more earthquakes or tsunamis?

We fear that those among us who are already in poor health because of poverty and not having equal access to health care will be the first to feel the devastation of extreme weather and pollution. It has been seen globally that the poorest urban and rural communities are the worst affected; it is clear that in Ireland the pattern will be repeated, where the most marginalised will be the worst affected.

In our daily life, we already have so many struggles and worries that we are not thinking too much about global warming. **We must admit that we are leaving these issues to other people, the people "in charge". But by doing this, are we not killing ourselves?** Politicians and leaders don't seem to take responsibility. Profit goes before people and the planet. The world's richest

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10% produce half of all emissions, the poorest 3.5 billion just 1/10. For us, the law can be an effective tool to limit wrong doing against people and the planet. However too often we feel the law when used by the powerful & the rich ignores the weakest & the poorest.

Yet, we have a role to play! **We think about our children and their future on the planet and we are ready to look at our own habits.** At our #Croke21 Summit, we spoke about some changes we could make. Even small changes which can sometimes be difficult to make and keep:

- Washing clothes at 30°C and using a lower spin rate
- Shortening the time in the shower
- Avoiding hand driers and use towels
- Buying and eating local produce
- Growing your own food in community gardens
- Reducing our use of plastic bottles, packaging, and bags
- Using electric cars
- Reducing the quantity of meat we eat
- Sorting waste and being careful about what we throw in the fire place
- Improving insulation in old and new homes

Alone, it is often difficult to change. Even applying the 3Rs: Reduce, Re-use, Recycle is a challenge in every day life! Are our houses, our estates fit for purpose? Different public authorities should help to empower us, the citizens, for the changes we need to make. So resources should be given that create peer-support groups in local communities. As the Climate Summit in Paris takes place, let's give a new meaning to COP: let's all become **Climate Organised People!**

Let's also ensure that we listen to the most effected by climate change and empower them. With sufficient allies, together we should be able to confront those with power: the government, public authorities and multi-national companies.

We also expect that COP21 will create a strong agreement about the need to be accountable for the climate. We want ways to reduce the damage to the environmental footprint we each create. **Will those people who make the most heavy impact on our planet be ready to take on their responsibilities?** Will they be ready to compensate for their past, present and future actions? Will they compensate if no action is taken?

This is a story we know from our own experience. **The weakest have to struggle very, very long and very, very hard to gain recognition for a damage caused to them and to get compensation.** In many countries, we know of groups of very poor citizens who are fighting for fair recognition of the State's or private bodies' responsibilities for damages caused. It's a long fight. As the COP21 Summit meets, we stand beside vulnerable people and communities, the many species of plant and animal life that still exist and the planet. **We call on our Government to lead the way to an ambitious Climate Action Agreement.**



The ATD Ireland project
#Croke21 - a Community
Climate Summit
has been awarded
the official #COP21 label!
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