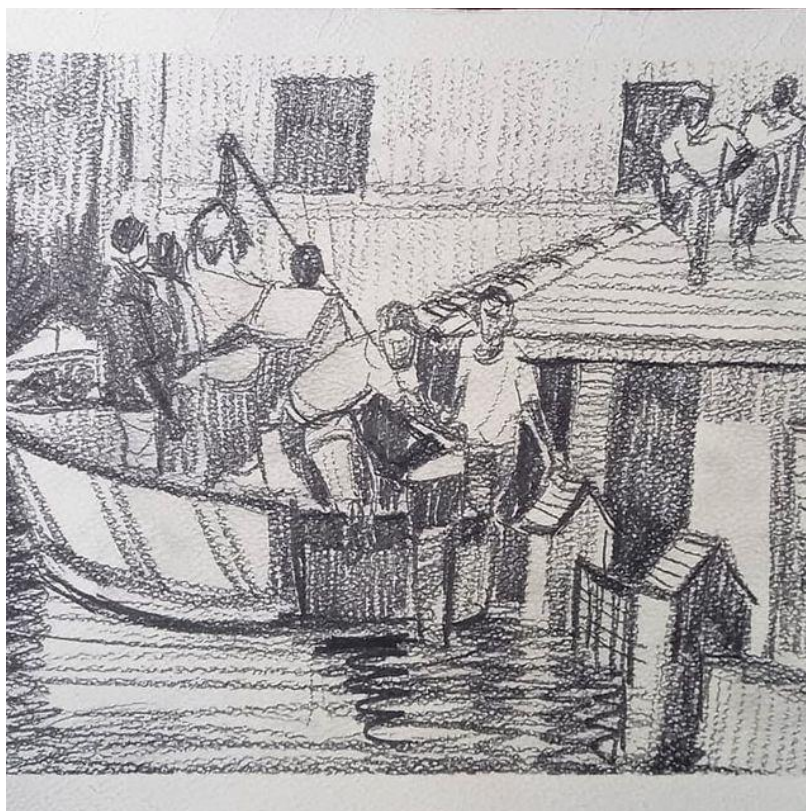


Letters for Creation

Session 3 - Impact Toolkit

How to host a Letters for Creation exhibition and raise your voice on climate justice.



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Introduction

This Letters for Creation Impact Toolkit provides quick tips to help you put on a Letters for Creation exhibition and workshop to help people raise their voice on climate justice.

This toolkit will help you think through the steps of hosting an exhibition and workshop, provide useful templates to make the work easier and help you make sure that the impact of your involvement in Letters for Creation is heard through your community and beyond.

If and where you have worked with children and young people, we encourage you to amplify their voices on and create opportunities for them to lead.



Preparing to host a Letters for Creation exhibition or workshop

Letters for Creation is a project focused on climate justice. Climate justice looks at the intersections of climate change and global justice. We believe that it is centrally important to explore what is driving climate change. This includes looking at the historic responsibility of the world's wealthier nations and recognising the reality that communities which are living with the worst consequences of climate change have often contributed the least.

We cannot stress enough the importance of informed action. This means that it is really important to make time and space to learn about and explore climate justice as a central theme. The Letters for Creation session plans have been designed to help you explore these issues.

Running an exhibition could facilitate a space for others to generate more artwork, building on the art created on session 2 (using the art facilitation guide). However, if you do not have the resources or capacity to run the exhibition as a space to *create* artwork, you can run the exhibition as a space to *showcase* the artwork already created and invite MPs and other members of the public to come and discuss climate justice.

This guide will help you run an exhibition in either format.

The 'artwork' can take many different forms, for example: photography, knitting, spoken word and poetry, writing a song, or even writing a letter. The list is endless!



Everyone should have the option to be involved in the planning and running of the exhibition if they want to. As we learned about in session 1, everyone has a role to play in climate justice so it's important to use your artwork to create an impact in your local community. The aim of the exhibition is to inform and engage not only the other members of your church, but also the wider public, and even your local MP. This might look like:

- Promoting the exhibition: Telling others about what they are doing. For example, they could write a short section in the church or parish magazine, or a quote for the press release.
- Messaging: Using their platform to speak about the project and climate justice.
- Inviting key people: Ensuring school governors, local politicians, local community leaders, local business leaders and church leaders are invited to participate.



Putting on a Letters for Creation exhibition

You can order the Letters for Creation Poster Pack which includes art created by children and young people by sending an email to orders@christian-aid.org. You will receive a pack of posters that you can use at the start of the exhibition to inspire people in your community and in your church on climate justice. Then use this exhibition as an opportunity to invite others to create their own artworks. Be sure to provide some arts materials including pens, paints and paper, etc.

Invite an artist: Recognising that some of the pieces in the poster pack were co-created by professional artists working with children in their communities, you might invite your own local artist in to lead a session. Whether or not you invite a local artist to take part, we suggest using the Letters for Creation creative facilitation guide inspired by the work of artist Adam Walker entitled 'Caring Deeply, Dancing Freely', to help unlock creative ideas.

Involve the whole community: Letters for Creation is a project inspired by the voices of children and young people, but it is not exclusive to them. Do spend time thinking about how you can encourage parents, friends, church and community members to create their own Letters for Creation to add to the exhibition.

Safety measures: Any event should be thoroughly risk-assessed by responsible adults to ensure safety, safeguarding and adherence to current rules regarding Covid-19.



Amplification

- **Press release:** An editable press release is available on the website for you to promote what you have been doing to local media.
- **Social media posts:** We would love to see your exhibitions and the impact you are having. We would also love to help build your influence. If you do post anything on social media, be sure to tag Christian Aid and we might be able to repost what you are doing and encourage other children and young people to follow suit and join in. Social media can be a great tool to platform the leadership of the children and young people you are working with.
 - @letters_for_creation
 - @thecacollective
 - @christianaiduk
 - #LettersForCreation
- **Engaging with decision-makers:** Letters for Creation can serve as a great opportunity to engage with your local politicians (e.g. MPs, MSPs, MSs and councillors). You could use the exhibition and your work on the project as a platform to influence key decision makers at a local, national and, potentially, international level.



How to engage decision-makers

There are a few different approaches you might consider to engage politicians and other decision makers. The most straightforward may be for you to write to your local politicians, telling them about what you have learned about climate justice, and the actions you would like leaders to take. This might include:

- Asking local politicians to take specific action in their local community.
- Asking local politicians to vote a certain way in Parliament or their local national legislature.
- Asking local politicians to write to the Prime Minister/Government.

It is a good idea to discuss as a group what you want your core message to your local politician to be, making sure you have made clear:

- Who you are – state your church name and how many people you represent.
- Why you are writing to them – to share your concerns on climate justice and climate change.
- What you want them to do about it – to take specific action.
- Tip: Another great way to add some pressure is to use our press release to get local media coverage then tell your politician about it!

Meeting with your local politician face-to-face

Another approach you could take is to invite your local politician to your Letters for Creation exhibition. Alternatively, take a group to meet them at their local surgery when MPs/MSPs/MSs meet their local constituents, and invite them in person.

Personal relationship is a powerful tool to be used. Meeting your local politician in person, whether at their surgery or when attending your Letters for Creation exhibition, is an opportunity to address them face-to-face.

For a moment, let's imagine that you have invited your local politician or other local representatives, and they have said yes. It is important to plan and to take some things into consideration.

Politicians are people. Don't feel overwhelmed by them, and remember that they work for you! While politicians are good at giving political answers, don't be



afraid to ask questions and demand clear answers. Framing your questions and asks as 'yes' or 'no' can help to cut through the noise.

Consider these questions when planning to meet with your local politician:

- What is the core message you want the politician to hear?
- Who is going to say it? It can be better to have one or two spokespeople to speak on behalf of the group to ensure a clear message.
- How will you address them? Will you address them through conversation, or through presentation of your artworks?
- Will you invite them to address you on the subject of climate justice?
- Can children and young people in your church do a performance to help communicate the issue and their passion?

Remember, it is important that participants learn about engaging with decision-makers on issues that they care about.

Christian Aid does have some guidelines for engagement with decision-makers.

Engagement should:

- Encourage you to think widely and deeply about issues (asking 'why')
- Empower you to understand political processes and your own rights and responsibilities in society
- Encourage you to think of creative solutions to problems (asking 'what can be done about it?')
- Equip you to identify where power is located and how decisions are made
- Enable you to express yourself confidently and articulately to decision-makers and others

Engagement should not:

- Be party political
- Spoon-feed actions to those involved
- Pretend that complex problems have simple solutions
- Be un-thinking or reactionary
- Fail to take account of a wide variety of differing viewpoints

