



EMBARGOED UNTIL 00.01 GMT, 30 January

Historic alliance of 2,020 campaigners unite to issue an open letter demanding world leaders tackle the emergency facing people and planet

Signatories include world-leading activists and campaigners from Dr. Jane Goodall DBE and Malala Yousafzai, to leaders of movements including Patrisse Cullors, Black Lives Matter; Dr Obiageli Ezekwesili, Bring Back Our Girls; Tarana Burke, Me Too and Alexandria Villaseñor, Fridays For Future.

LONDON, 30 JANUARY 2020: In a dramatic act of global unity, 2000 campaigners and public figures from over 140 countries are backing an open letter signed by 20 world-leading activists. The letter declares a state of “emergency” for people and planet. It comes one week on from UN Secretary-General António Guterres calling on the international community to make the 2020s the “decade of action” and 2020 the “year of urgency”.

Ranging from ages 10-94, the 20 leading gender, climate, environmental, equality, justice and human rights campaigners authoring the letter are Nobel Peace Prize laureates **Malala Yousafzai** and **Nadia Murad**; founder of the Me Too movement **Tarana Burke**; co-founder of Black Lives Matters **Patrisse Cullors**; anti-apartheid campaigner **Andrew Mlangeni**; co-founder of Bring Back our Girls **Dr. Obiageli Ezekwesili**; environmental campaigners **Dr. Jane Goodall DBE** and **Yann Arthus-Bertrand**; social justice and human rights campaigners **Emi Mahmoud**, **Kumi Naidoo**, **Kennedy Odede**, **Sophie Cruz** and **Raull Santiago**; youth climate activists **Melati Wijzen** and **Alexandria Villaseñor**; gender equality campaigners **Lydia Cacho**, **Jaha Dukureh**, **Dr. Alaa Murabit** and **Trisha Shetty**; and disability rights advocate **Edward Ndopu**.

Campaigners want to see political leadership at key moments this year including COP26, the Gavi replenishment, Generation Equality Forums in Mexico and France, the UN General Assembly, and a landmark biodiversity conference in China.

2000 supporters have added their names to the letter and backed this call to action. Signatories from the worlds of arts, culture, sports, philanthropy and civil society include **J.J. Abrams**, **Riz Ahmed**, **Christiane Amanpour**, **Chris Anderson**, **Judd Apatow**, **Becca**, **Alisson Becker**, **Dr Natália Loewe Becker**, **Bono**, **Susanne Bier**, **Danny Boyle**, **Alice Braga**, **Sinéad Burke**, **Emilia Clarke**, **Olivia Colman**, **Alfonso Cuarón**, **Benedict Cumberbatch**, **Richard Curtis**, **Fatoumata Diawara**, **Chiwetel Ejiofor**, **Idris Elba**, **Hugh Evans**, **Stephen Fry**, **Neil Gaiman**, **Jennifer Garner**, **Bob Geldof**, **Bear Grylls**, **Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin**, **Dr Mo Ibrahim**, **Edna Adan Ismail**, **Jony Ive**, **Katja Iversen**, **Lily James**, **Ashley Judd**, **Aamir Khan**, **Angelique Kidjo**, **Femi Kuti**, **Spike Lee**, **Padma Lakshmi**, **Blake Lively**, **Charlie Mackesy**, **Chris Martin**, **Rami Malek**, **Professor Mariana Mazzucato**, **David Miliband**, **Dia Mirza**, **Carey Mulligan**, **Amanda Mukwashi**, **Wagner Moura**, **Fernando Meirelles**, **Jamie Oliver**, **Folake Olowofoyeku**, **Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, **Camila Pitanga**, **Paul Polman**, **Manuel Pulgar Vidal**, **Ryan Reynolds**, **General Lord Richards**, **Julia Roberts**, **Mj Rodriguez**, **Saoirse Ronan**, **Cody Simpson**, **Mark Suzman**, **Dr Raj Shah**, **Yara Shahidi**, **Peter Tatchell**, **Emma Thompson**, **Bjorn Ulvaeus**, **Jimmy Wales**, **Emma Watson**, **Pharrell Williams** and **Michelle Yeoh**.

Dr Jane Goodall DBE, founder of the Jane Goodall Institute, said: “Now is the time for action if we are to achieve the Global Goals that world leaders have committed to. Not next year, not in five years - but now in 2020. We all have a role to play. My global programme for young people, Roots & Shoots is planting 5 million trees in this year alone. Those in power must now step up and play their part too.”



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Tarana Burke, founder of the MeToo Movement, said: “The Global Goals are a solutions-focused plan that the world needs. They are as much about what is happening in the USA as in Uganda. They build on a vision of a world in which women and girls can live free from violence, harassment and discrimination, but we all know that is a long way off. That’s why we must use these Goals as a tool to hold our leaders to account and to boost all our efforts. I’m proud to stand with climate campaigners, human rights defenders, education activists today to send a clear message to leaders that these Goals are all our Goals. We are ready - and we are watching - for action.”

Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of Black Lives Matter and founder/chair of Reform LA Jails, said: “The battle for justice and equality becomes more urgent with every passing day. I am proud to join together with 19 other activists today, across issues, across continents and generations – to demand world leaders deliver on their promises contained in the Global Goals. We are doing our bit. They must do theirs.”

Dr. Obiageli Ezekwesili, co-founder of Bring Back Our Girls, said: “Governments across the world are simply not acting quickly enough or with enough intention to meet the 2030 deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals. We need our leaders to find innovative financial solutions and show us how they will commit to this next decade of action. I am proud to join with 19 other climate campaigners, gender activists, human rights defenders and anti-poverty advocates in signing this letter. These Goals are all our Goals and can only be achieved together.”

Richard Curtis, SDG advocate, screenwriter and co-founder of Project Everyone, said: “We are in an emergency for people and planet - the solution to which is the Global Goals - the historic plan to defeat poverty, fix inequality and combat the climate crisis. These 20 activists and 2000 supporters represent the universal and indivisible nature of the Goals - and the passion from all sides that 2020 must be a transformative, radical year for change and progress and new finance - for people and planet. In 2020, leaders will be watched by people all around the world who expect them to deliver dramatically. It’s also a clear commitment that this diverse and deeply committed group will themselves press hard throughout this crucial year to kickstart a Decade of Action for the Goals.”

The open letter has been issued to highlight the need for immediate action, including at key 2020 moments, if the world is to meet the Global Goals. It demands sustained innovation, financing and action over the crucial decade ahead to 2030. Recent reports underline the need for swift action; at least half the global population does not have access to essential health services, hunger is on the rise after a prolonged decline¹, and at the current rate of progress, it will take almost 100 years to close the global gender gap². Meanwhile, greenhouse gas emissions are reaching record levels and key ecosystems are on the verge of collapse with one million species in near-term danger of extinction.

The open letter is accompanied by a public campaign asking citizens to show their support by sharing the letter and to join this effort for people and planet by using #GlobalGoals. The full list of signatories can be seen at www.globalgoals.org.

A campaign film has also been directed by Richard Curtis <https://youtu.be/YmpMeAhI4kE>

ENDS

¹ https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24978Report_of_the_SG_on_SDG_Progress_2019.pdf

² <https://www.weforum.org/reports/gender-gap-2020-report-100-years-pay-equality>



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Notes to Editors

Media inquiries should be directed to goals2020@freuds.com.

About the Global Goals

On September 25, 2015, at the United Nations headquarters in New York, 193 world leaders committed to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (or Global Goals). These are a series of ambitious objectives and targets to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and fix climate change by 2030.

2020 and the Decade of Action

The open letter is part of a broader campaign for people and planet running throughout 2020 in support of the Global Goals, which is backed by a network of partners from across the world. The Decade of Action launched by the UN Secretary-General calls on governments, businesses, civil society and individuals everywhere to create an unstoppable force to reach the Goals by 2030.

About Project Everyone

Project Everyone, co-ordinator of the open letter, was co-founded by writer, director, and SDG Advocate Richard Curtis, Kate Garvey and Gail Gallie with the ambition to help achieve the Global Goals through raising awareness, holding leaders accountable, and driving action. Find out more at www.project-everyone.org.

Signatories

The full list of signatories can be viewed at www.globalgoals.org

20 lead signatories

1. Yann Arthus-Bertrand, Photographer, environmentalist, filmmaker and founder of Good Planet, France
2. Tarana Burke, Founder & Executive Director, MeToo, USA
3. Lydia Cacho, Journalist, human rights activist and writer, Mexico
4. Sophie Cruz, Human rights activist, USA
5. Patrisse Cullors, Co-founder of Black Lives Matter and founder/chair of Reform LA Jails' "Yes on R" campaign, USA
6. Jaha Dukureh, Founder, Safe Hands for Girls and UN Women Regional Goodwill Ambassador, The Gambia
7. Dr. Obiageli Ezekwesili, Co-founder, Bring Back Our Girls and #RedCardMovement, Nigeria
8. Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, Founder, Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace, UK
9. Emi Mahmoud, World Champion Poet & UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador, USA/Sudan
10. Andrew Mlangeni, Political activist and anti-apartheid campaigner, South Africa
11. Dr. Alaa Murabit, SDG Advocate and CEO, Impact2030; Libya/Canada
12. Nadia Murad, President and Chairwoman of Nadia's Initiative, Iraq
13. Kumi Naidoo, Outgoing Secretary General, Amnesty International, South Africa
14. Edward Ndopu, UN Secretary-General's SDG Advocate, South Africa
15. Kennedy Odede, Founder and CEO, Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO), Kenya
16. Raul Santiago, Founder, Papo Reto and Movimentos, Brazil
17. Trisha Shetty, Founder, She Says India, India
18. Alexandria Villaseñor, Organiser Fridays For Future and Founder, Earth Uprising, USA
19. Melati Wijsen, Founder, Bye Bye Plastic Bags, Indonesia



THE GLOBAL GOALS

20. Malala Yousafzai, Co-founder, Malala Fund, Pakistan

The letter also receives the support of campaigners from a range of social movements and civil society organisations including Amnesty, ACT Alliance, Action 4 Sustainable Development, Avaaz, BudgIT, Christian Aid, Cafod, Comic Relief, CIVICUS, Demosistō, Extinction Rebellion, Follow the Money, GCAP, Girls Not Brides, Global Citizen, the International Rescue Committee, Malaria No More, Oxfam, the ONE campaign, Plan International, Restless Development, Save the Children, Tearfund, Twaweza, Transparency International, WaterAid, Women Deliver, the World Organisation of the Scout Movement, World Vision and the YMCA.

Appendix

Open letter

Dear World Leaders,

This is an emergency.

We are activists for different causes from across the world, writing as one for the first time to demand your immediate action in this critical year.

5 years ago, at the United Nations, 193 countries committed to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

A historic plan to end extreme poverty, conquer inequality and fix the climate crisis.

Look at our world now.

Our climate is heating up.

Natural disasters are increasing.

Millions flee their homes.

Children suffer without vital food and healthcare.

Activists are murdered for their views.

Girls and women are refused an education and subjected to discrimination and violence.

But we still dare to hope that in 2020 you will act decisively and courageously and kickstart a Decade of Action.

We need you to act faster.

To find the finance. To track implementation. To unlock radical solutions.

We are watching you. And we will fight every day, for people, for planet.

There are not just a few of us - there are millions with one voice and one question.

How will you keep your promise and deliver dramatic progress towards the Global Goals this year?

We await your urgent reply.