



BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF SCOTLAND

STATEMENT ON FOSSIL FUEL NON-PROLIFERATION AND A JUST TRANSITION

14TH NOVEMBER 2024

To mark COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, three years after Scotland hosted COP26 in Glasgow, we, the Catholic Bishops of Scotland, encourage world leaders to agree to and establish a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty to commit all nations to a rapid and just transition away from fossil fuels.

This transition is vital to address the urgent needs of our planet and its people both in Scotland and overseas; those currently suffering from economic precarity, poverty and environmental destruction; and the unborn future generations from whom we are borrowing the Earth.

Scotland must contribute to the global effort for the common good by playing its part in a rapid transition away from fossil fuels. It is vital, however, that this transition has justice at its core. Recognising the many workers and communities in Scotland who have relied on fossil fuels for their livelihoods, we emphasise that any proposition to move away from fossil fuels must cite clear commitments to a just and equitable transition for all, in particular those in need of secure jobs in the post-carbon economy. Simultaneously, commitments must realise justice globally for those who are already the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and who cannot endure further global warming caused by any more fossil fuel extraction.

Through establishing and implementing a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that commits all nations to a just transition, world leaders can ensure that the common good is realised both locally and internationally as "the climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all." (Laudato Si, 23). As we move forward, let us embrace the challenge of COP29 with hope and determination, fostering a sustainable future for all. Together, we can answer the call for justice and stewardship of our planet.

+ John Keenan, President, Bishop of Paisley

+Brian McGee, Vice President, Bishop of Argyll and The Isles

+Andrew McKenzie, Episcopal Secretary, Bishop of Dunkeld

+Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrew's and Edinburgh

+William Nolan, Archbishop of Glasgow

+Joseph Toal, Bishop of Motherwell

+Hugh Gilbert, Bishop of Aberdeen

+Frank Dougan, Bishop of Galloway