

Manifesto recommendations



Farmers in Suganketa, India, planting saplings which will later be harvested and sold for profit. From 2010-2017, Scottish Government funded a project in South Asia which improved access to markets for 8,000 women in Bangladesh and India.

Christian Aid has been supporting the world's most vulnerable people and tackling the root causes of poverty for the past 75 years. We know that poverty does not happen by accident.

Poverty and Power

Our experience in over 20 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America tells us that poverty tends to be the result of unequal access to power and resources which are often linked to, or a consequence of, political decisions. That is why we engage with all political parties to seek change.

As recent events have shown, the world has never been so inter-connected. Our actions, and those of our elected representatives and governments, cause ripple effects on the lives of our global neighbours. The COVID-19 crisis has caused misery for millions of people and has exacerbated many existing inequalities. But it has also demonstrated that far-reaching change is both essential and possible. Pandemics have been described as portals: gateways to another world. Rebuilding from the pandemic, with a focus on justice, offers the opportunity to reset, renew and reimagine a just, sustainable world.

We propose the following manifesto recommendations for the Scottish Parliament elections 2021 based on our analysis of poverty and our work with partner organisations in Scotland and around the world. We urge parties to adopt these proposals in support of the world's poorest people.

This paper includes recommendations regarding:

- Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)
- Climate Justice
 - Emissions
 - Climate Finance
 - Civil Society Engagement
- Development Education
- Sustainable Economy
- International Development Fund



Thanks to funding from the Climate Justice Fund, a solar irrigation system has been installed in Nsanje, Malawi to help farmers like Gladys combat the impact of erratic rainfall.

Reaching beyond aid: Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)

Occasionally the terms 'development' and 'international development' are used interchangeably with the term 'aid'. But Christian Aid has long understood that the role of governments in tackling poverty goes far beyond providing funds for programmes on the ground, however welcome and vital that may be.

Christian Aid insists that poverty is political. In order to tackle its root causes, political issues such as climate change, gender inequality, conflict, migration, trade policy and many more, must be addressed. We therefore support a government-wide approach which considers the impact of decision-making on the world's most vulnerable women and men. Such a whole-government approach is often referred to as Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD).

By adopting a government-wide, all-department view, and by weighing up negatives as well as positives, we can see that the actions of the Scottish Government's policy choices in areas far beyond its International Development Fund - such as climate change, or the education of a new generation of informed global citizens, or in how it measures economic progress - are crucial factors in determining Scotland's overall contribution to international development.

Policy coherence fosters joined-up decision making. It helps to stop one arm of government inadvertently

detracting from the good being done by another. Policy coherence creates a systemic framework for identifying potential conflicts and, where possible, mitigating against these in a transparent manner. It encourages a wider, multi-faceted understanding of poverty, its root causes and how these can be transformed.

Policy coherence also has widespread public support. Opinion polling in November 2020 found that almost three-quarters (73%) of Scots think it is important that the Scottish Government ensure the global effects of policy decisions made in Scotland are taken into account.*

PCSD Recommendations

We warmly welcome the interest in and support for a PCSD approach over the past parliamentary term from various Scottish political parties, the Scottish Government and the First Minister. We believe these foundations should be built on with the following recommendations.

The new Scottish Government should:

- Put forward a Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill during the next Parliament which requires all public bodies to set objectives towards sustainable development outcomes, ensuring that they impact positively on people and the environment both in Scotland and in low-income countries.
- Commit to forming a new inter-ministerial working group on PCSD which is formalised to outlive electoral cycles.
- Measure and report on Scotland's global footprint holistically through the National Performance Framework and Sustainable Development Goals.

Christian Aid is a member of Scotland's International Development Alliance and these recommendations are consistent with and reinforce their manifesto document.** We urge parties and government to work with the Alliance in developing Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development.

A PCSD approach should underpin the approach of the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Government to international development. Within the context of such a framework, Christian Aid Scotland urges a particular focus on issues set out in the rest of this document.

Climate Justice

Climate change is one of the Scottish Parliament's most important areas of responsibility in terms of international development. Climate change and international development are closely linked. The world's poorest people tend to be the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and have fewest resources with which to adapt, despite having done least to cause the problem. This is a simple issue of justice.

Christian Aid is clear that Scotland must deliver at least its fair share, according to the science, to meet the 1.5 degree commitment established by the Paris Agreement. Scotland has committed to some of the strongest climate targets globally. By implementing policies that meet or exceed these targets, Scotland can be a much-needed positive international role model which others might follow. This is especially important with the arrival of the pivotal UN Climate Summit (COP26) in Glasgow in November 2021.

Emissions recommendations

In 2019, the Scottish Parliament passed the Scottish Climate (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act, committing to at least 75% cuts in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (1990 baseline), and net-zero emissions by 2045 at the latest.

The new Scottish Government should:

- Set out credible, detailed plans of the transformative change required to meet the targets within the Act, taking a precautionary approach that does not rely on negative emissions and other unproven technologies to meet the targets.
- Take a proactive approach to sharing best practice in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in areas where Scotland provides a positive example to other countries - such as the rapid decarbonisation of the electricity sector - especially at COP26.

Climate Finance recommendations

Climate finance is not a devolved responsibility of the Scottish Parliament. However, since 2012, the Scottish Government's Climate Justice Fund has recognised climate change as an issue of justice and has supported the most vulnerable communities with funding additional to the existing International Development Fund.

The new Scottish Government should:

- Champion the issues of climate finance, including the need to achieve the \$100bn 2020 goal and for new post-2020 climate finance commitments.
- Champion Loss and Damage in the context of COP26, in particular, the need for new and additional finance for this
- Continue to support and promote the concept of international climate justice.
- Continue to place particular emphasis on tackling the effects of climate change on women.
- Commit to a significant increase in the Climate Justice Fund to reflect the urgent need for substantial increases in grant-based public climate finance.

Civil Society Engagement recommendations

The level of civil society engagement in climate decision-making, especially from the global south, is far from sufficient or representative. Globally, women bear the heaviest burden in dealing with the effects of the climate crisis. Too often they lack the power to decide how to tackle it.

The new Scottish Government should:

- * Use its influence - as COP26 comes to Glasgow - to advocate that indigenous and marginalised groups, experts and activists from the global south are included and given the power and the space to meaningfully engage in climate negotiations and policy development at COP26.
- Use its influence - as COP26 comes to Glasgow and beyond - to advocate for greater women's representation in civil society and decision-making spaces.

Christian Aid is a member of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS). These recommendations are intended to support, complement and reinforce their manifesto proposals.***

Development Education recommendations

Education has substantial scope to help shape Scotland's long-term approach and attitudes towards international development.

We welcome and support the clear focus within the Curriculum for Excellence on Global Citizenship Education (GCE). To deliver effective GCE, Scotland's education sector needs to be able to access high-quality resources and information on international development issues. This right to access is consistent with Goal 4.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals relating to education, rights and learning for sustainability.

The new Scottish Government should:

- Commit to continued direct financial support for the five Development Education Centres in Scotland.
- Commission an independent review of 'Learning for Sustainability'.

Sustainable Economy recommendations

A sustainable development approach to the economy will be required in order to truly build back better.

Although the limitations of GDP as a measure of sustainable societal wellbeing are well-known, it often remains the principal indicator of economic success. Economic thinking, planning and activity should result in long-term sustainable development for all, rather than in short-term financial gains for the few at the expense of people and the planet.

We are all familiar with the idea of using consumer power to effect positive change. The Scottish Government's budget of around £40bn per year makes it the most powerful consumer in the country. With great consumer power comes great opportunity – and responsibility – to work for good.

The new Scottish Government should:

- Accelerate progress on the movement towards more holistic indicators of national success by adopting a headline measure of progress which represents the broader concerns of human and ecological wellbeing, beyond GDP growth.
- Use public procurement, public policy and leadership on business practice in Scotland to support sustainable development.



Christian Aid campaigns alongside partners and civil society around the world for positive change.

International Development Fund Recommendation

Scotland's International Development Fund (IDF) plays an important role in the Government's broad and coherent response to tackling international poverty.

Since 2005, successive Scottish Governments have provided funding which complements the UK Government's funding - through the Department for International Development (DFID) and, more recently, the Foreign Common and Development Office (FCDO) - for projects in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The relatively small scale of this programme has allowed for innovation and a genuine partnership approach, particularly with Malawi.

The new Scottish Government should:

- Send a positive signal - in the context of widespread international pressure on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) - by increasing Scotland's International Development Fund.

Endnotes

* tinyurl.com/PolicyCoherencePolling

** tinyurl.com/TheAllianceManifesto

*** tinyurl.com/SCCSmanifesto