

Statement of Solidarity from the Ecology Coordinator of the Jesuit Conference of India/South Asia

To be published at the beginning of Motorway Blockades by the Uprising of the Last Generation

We express our solidarity with the young people and their supporters in Germany, who are determined to alert the world about the climate emergency.

In South Asia, we are caught up in a maze of climate threats to which definite solutions are required. By 2050, one in every 7 persons in Bangladesh will be displaced by climate change, and up to 18 million people may have to move due to sea level rise. With 25% of its population living in low-lying areas, Sri Lanka is facing threats of sea level rise, and extreme weather events are severely impacting the country's ecosystem, life and livelihood of people at large. Pakistan has been experiencing recurring heatwaves and droughts, riverine and flash floods, landslides and cyclones affecting lakhs of its people. In India, the severe rains, flash floods and landslides in which hundreds died are proof of the reality of the climate crisis we are in, and 25 of 35 States and Union Territories are highly vulnerable to climate-induced floods and drought. Climate change-led agrarian distress and vulnerabilities have accelerated farmer suicides by 35% in 2020 in the country.

We are alarmed by the deepening climate crisis and endorse your commitment to save posterity.

We do recognise that radically and immediately transforming our relationships at all levels are required for placing people, their lives and livelihood, before profits. We are committed to working together to identify concrete solutions to achieve the goal of securing a global system that values our work, our families, our communities, and our environment.

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