Youth Perspectives on Climate Change

The Caribbean Climate Justice Project, managed by SOLORICON, in partnership with the Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC), with funding support from the Open Society Foundation, is pleased to announce the launch of three competitions on Monday 5 July 2021, with a closing date of 11.59 pm AST on Friday 20 August 2021. These competitions are open to young people (up to the age of 35 years) who are citizens of a member or associate member country of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)[1].

1. Prose Competition

Submissions must be written in English and should be between 1500 and 2000 words long. Submissions must cover one of the following subject areas:

1. "What climate change means to me - a young person in the Caribbean"
2. "From where I stand, how do I see the world I will inhabit in 2035 if nothing is done about climate change?"
3. You have a friend, your age group, who is not much interested in climate change, but is having a fun time now, with the intention of settling into a career and family within a few years. Write an honest letter to your friend, based on your genuine thoughts and feelings on climate change and why they need to care more about this.
4. Choose a ministry or government agency whose work you think can make a critical difference in helping to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Write a paper, outlining the measures that you believe should be taken over the next two to three years by the specific ministry or government agency so that it can make a meaningful difference.
5. Imagine yourself as the prime minister of your country, who has been invited to address the United Nations on the subject of climate change. Write an address to the United Nations, explaining how climate change is impacting your country and outline the things you would like the United Nations and the international community to do to assist your country in its battle with climate change.
6. Write a dialogue involving two people who hold different opinions about the significance of climate change. These are not strangers; there is a history of relationship and emotional connection, but they do not see the issue the same way. How the dialogue begins, and ends is your choice. (The names of the speaker at the beginning of each piece of dialogue will not form part of the word count)
7. You are an agri-business owner, whose company produces and sells a range of vegetables, tree crops and root crops. Tell us how you see climate change impacting your business and the measures that would need to be taken, at all levels, to help you overcome these challenges.
8. There has been much talk in the last few years about sustainable development and its importance for countries like ours. Why do you believe sustainable development is important and in what ways will it help the Caribbean address the challenges posed by climate change?

[1] Eligible Countries: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands

9. Caribbean nations, like other small island developing states (SIDS), are among the countries most impacted by climate change. However, they did not cause the problem. What do you think should be done to ensure climate justice for Caribbean countries and citizens who are being so negatively affected by a problem they did not cause?
10. Imagine yourself as the chief advisor to the prime minister or head of government of your country and prepare a document informing your PM of the ways in which climate change will negatively impact human rights and political stability in your country and the Caribbean in the future.
11. The CARICOM Secretariat is establishing a new Department of Innovation and Resilience. You have been selected to lead this department. Prepare a report for submission to the CARICOM Secretary General, which focuses on the innovative approaches that your department will employ for the first five years of its existence, to help Caribbean countries develop greater resilience to the impacts of climate change.
12. Write a paper to the heads of the CARICOM Secretariat, the OECS Commission and the Caribbean Community Center for Climate Change outlining areas in which you, as a Caribbean youth, would like to see changes made now to ensure that the country and the region you will pass on to your children will be better than the one you are inheriting from your parents, with specific mention of the challenges and threats posed by climate change and environmental degradation.
13. How can local and regional private sector organizations play a more meaningful role in helping Caribbean businesses and countries respond to the threat of climate change?
14. Caribbean societies are known for the wealth of traditional and indigenous knowledge they contain, on everything from medicinal plants to construction methods. How can we tap into this knowledge and empower local communities to play a bigger role in helping our countries develop resilience to the impacts of climate change?

The best submission in each of these subject areas will receive a cash prize of US$500. Submissions must be in MS Word format.

2. Poetry Competition

Each poem should be between 20 and 40 lines in length. The poem can be: (a) traditionally structured, using rhyme and regular rhythm, or (b) free verse and therefore unified by whatever literary devices the writer chooses.

The best poem in each of the two categories will receive a cash prize of US$500. Submissions must be in MS Word format.

3. **Photography Competition**

Photographs must be original and should focus on one of the following themes, with an accompanying explanation of no more than 100 words of the photograph's depiction of the theme.

1. Climate Change and Livelihoods in the Caribbean
2. Climate Change and Food Security in the Caribbean
3. Climate Change and Marine Ecosystems in the Caribbean
4. Climate Change and Fresh Water in the Caribbean
5. Climate Change and Biodiversity in the Caribbean
6. Climate Change and Tourism in the Caribbean
7. Climate Change and Vulnerability in the Caribbean
8. Climate Change and Resilience in the Caribbean

Photographs should be originals and should not have been subjected to any form of editing. Submissions should be in JPG or PNG format and must be high resolution (300 pixels per inch/300 dpi). The best photograph in each theme will earn the photographer a cash prize of US$350.

Every entry must be accompanied by a signed and completed Submission and Release Form, which may be found on the website at https://www.caribbeanclimatejustice.org/projects-3. Failure to include this form will invalidate the entry.

Book Publication

The selected prose, poems and photographs will be published in a book entitled **Caribbean Youth Perspectives on Climate Change**, which will be launched for COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland in November. The book will be made available for sale on Amazon, in paperback and Kindle formats.

Caribbean Climate Justice

Regional Youth Parliament on Climate Justice

The fourth activity will be a virtual regional youth parliament, which will be convened on Thursday 23 September 2021, the day before the scheduled Global Climate Strike. In this virtual parliament, youth representatives from across the region will present their case for climate justice for the Caribbean and other Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

A resolution will be tabled in the Youth Parliament, and debated by the youth parliamentarians, calling for urgent action on climate change and climate justice. Ten Caribbean Youth Parliamentarians will speak on the following topics:

1. Climate Change and the threat to Health in the Caribbean
2. Climate Change and the threat to Food Security in the Caribbean
3. Climate Change and the threat to Water Security in the Caribbean
4. Climate Change and the threat to Biodiversity in the Caribbean
5. Climate Change and the threat to Vulnerable Populations in the Caribbean
6. Climate Change and the threat to Sustainable Development in the Caribbean
7. Climate Change and the threat to the Youth of the Caribbean
8. Climate Change and the threat to Human Rights in the Caribbean
9. Climate Change and the threat to Livelihoods in Caribbean
10. Climate Change and the threat to Political Stability in the Caribbean

Each youth parliamentarian will be given 20 minutes to make their presentation, which may be enhanced with visual aids such as PowerPoint. In addition to the 10 Youth Parliamentarians, a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker of the Parliament will be chosen.

The resolution that is passed in the Youth Parliament will be submitted to the CARICOM Secretariat, the OECS Commission, and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (CCCCC). The regional youth parliament will be live streamed.

Agenda for Parliament

10:00 Opening of Parliament
10:05 Address by Environmental Protection Icon
10:20 Tabling of Resolution
10:30 Debate on Resolution
13:00 Lunch Break
14:00 Resumption of Parliament
14:10 Continuation of Debate on Resolution
15:45 Adoption and Passage of Resolution
15:50 Closing Statement
16:00 Adjournment of Parliament