

## **Teaching Climate Change Youth Social Action through Hinduism**

In the Assisi Declarations of Nature, the Hindu statement included: "The human role is not separate from nature. All objects in the universe, beings and non-beings, are pervaded by the same spiritual power. The human race, though at the top of the evolutionary pyramid at present, is not seen as something apart from Earth and its many forms. People did not spring fully formed to dominate lesser life but evolved out of these forms and are integrally linked with them. Nature is sacred, and the divine is expressed through all its forms... Nature cannot be destroyed without humanity destroying itself."

- Young people could investigate the ways that trees and certain animals are revered by Hindus.

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Young people can find out about the teachings of Buddha on having compassion for all life and living simple lives in harmony with nature: "Just as the bee takes the nectar and leaves without damaging the colour or scent of the flowers, so should the sage act in a village" (Buddha).

The Dalai Lama has made numerous quotes about the environment, which Young people can read. For example: "Peace and survival of life on earth as we know it are threatened by human activities that lack a commitment to humanitarian values. Destruction of nature and natural resources results from ignorance, greed, and a lack of respect for the earth's living things. This lack of respect extends even to the earth's human descendants. These future generations will inherit a vastly degraded planet if world peace doesn't become a reality and if destruction of the natural environment continues at the present rate."

### **The Hindu View of Sustainability**

- BhagavadGita quote - Indian values
- Sacred Ganges - used for washing, cleaning, death - river pollution

## **Teaching Climate Change Youth Social Action through Christianity**

The use of the word 'rule' ("God blessed them and said to them... rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground" Genesis 1:26 and 28) could be interpreted as giving people the right to exploit the environment, but many Christians see themselves as being responsible for looking after the world on God's behalf.

Young people can look at how the harvest festival is a way of thanking God for the fruits of nature.

## **The Christian View of Sustainability**

- Church of England environmental teaching
- Catholic environmental teaching

## **Teaching Climate Change Youth Social Action through Islam**

Look for references to the beauty of nature and caring for the environment in the Qur'an; for example: "Devote thyself single-mindedly to the Faith, and thus follow the nature designed by Allah, the nature according to which He has fashioned mankind. There is no altering the creation of Allah" (Qur'an 30:30).

The Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences (IFEES) is a UK-based charity dedicated to maintaining the Earth as a healthy habitat for all living beings.

## **The Islamic View of Sustainability**

- Sustainability/ balance
- Charity - fast fashion/ waste and food
- Consumption
- Pollution
- Five pillars