



DAY 9

# COP26 ECUMENICAL DELEGATION

News from the UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021

NOVEMBER 2021 | DAY 9

The COP26 Ecumenical Delegation, led by *For the Love of Creation* and the United Church of Canada, will be bringing you highlights, impressions, stories, and hopes each day of the UN Climate Change Conference.

## Day 9 Highlights

### Notable quotes

**“SCIENCE WILL BE AN ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL PART OF THE SOLUTION, BOTH THE TECHNOLOGY BUT ALSO THE BEHAVIOUR ASPECT. WE’RE GOING TO HAVE TO HAVE A PROFOUND BEHAVIOURAL AND CULTURAL CHANGE IN TERMS OF OUR RELATION TO THE EARTH, OUR RELATION TO CONSUMPTION, OUR RELATION TO TRANSPORT, ETC., AND THAT’S SOMETHING THAT IS EXTREMELY CHALLENGING.”**

MONA NEMER, CANADA’S  
CHIEF SCIENTIFIC ADVISER

The theme of the day is Gender/Science and Innovation.

We’ve heard throughout the conference that women and girls are the most impacted by the climate crisis. Women and girls, particularly from Indigenous communities, carry heavy loads already, and this is only increasing. They are more likely to die from pollution and natural disasters and more likely to go without food. They are more at risk of violence and conflict and 80% more likely to be displaced due to climate change. Two-thirds of climate funding is directed to men, while women are often at the centre of communities and innovation.

We’ve heard that at COP26 75% of the officials in the “Blue Zone” are male, where high-level negotiations are taking place, and 80% of the delegates in the “Green Zone” are women, which is more reflective of grassroots and civil society leadership. Women are at the front lines on a local level but are often not included in the decisions that impact them.





## Day 9 Highlights

**PLEASE TAKE TIME TO READ,  
REFLECT, AND PRAY ON THE FOR  
THE LOVE OF CREATION BLOG  
POST BY DELEGATION MEMBER  
NELSON LEE:**

**[HTTPS://FORTHELOVEOFCREATION.CA/ADAPTATION-LOSS-AND-DAMAGE-DAY-AT-COP26/](https://fortheLoveOfCreation.ca/adaptation-loss-and-damage-day-at-cop26/)**

There are shared roots between the exploitation of women and girls, Indigenous peoples, and the earth in the “predatory colonialism” that continues to live in political, economic, social, and cultural systems and structures. We are certainly seeing alternatives to these systems emerging, particularly from Indigenous innovation and traditional knowledge. Innovation grounded in traditional knowledge and guided by Indigenous people is leading the way by example in responding to the climate crisis.

However, the news today is stark with the release of a report by the Climate Action Tracker whose data analysis of the COP26 short-term pledges so far indicates that the world is not on track to limit warming to 1.5C. In fact, as they stand, these commitments would lead to a 2.4C temperature rise by the end of the century, leading to catastrophic and irreversible ecological destruction. The urgency has set in once again that Canada and the world cannot push action down the road to 2050 or even 2030. The focus now, urgently, needs to be on short-term implementation of community-driven solutions.

## Stories, Impressions, Reflections

Some of our delegation discussion today was about creating and sharing spaces for learning and acting and letting go of power. As we were talking, an eagle was again sitting on top of the tree outside my window. Suddenly, another eagle came and shoved the first eagle off. The new eagle took the top spot. The first eagle seemed to accept this quite well. I thought, well, talk about letting go of power gracefully!

In the global north, those who are privileged take up too much space. We consume more of everything, including energy, food, water. And we take up most of the social, political, economic, and cultural space. We'll even try to justify it. But the planet and the people most impacted by the climate crisis know this. They know the limits, and we live well beyond them.

That being said, 50% of the planet does not live with enough. Not enough food, water, shelter, or other basic needs and not enough political and social space. This imbalance is the root of the crisis. The climate crisis is racist. It is sexist. It is unjust. And those of us taking up too much space need to live into a process of letting go. As people of faith, surely, we can see this as the way toward the flourishing of all life together.

***To follow COP26 online go to the COP26 Youtube channel:***

**<https://www.youtube.com/c/UNClimateChange>**

