

15th April 2021

Dear party leader,

We write to you as Just and Green Recovery Scotland: a cross-sectoral coalition working for a holistic, radical response to the dual crises of climate change and inequality as we recover from the coronavirus pandemic. We want to share with you our five asks for a just, green recovery and are looking for a response on behalf of your party letting us know the policies you will put in place during the next parliament to ensure a just, green recovery from this health and economic crisis.

The Five Asks are backed by over 100 organisations from churches to charities, Trade Unions to community groups, working across poverty and inequalities, health and housing, economy and the environment.

As Scotland rebuilds from coronavirus, **we have a chance to transform our society for the better**. We can build back a better society that focuses on our collective wellbeing, with strong public services and a decent income for all. We envisage a future Scotland where we do our fair share of climate action, restore Scotland's nature and create well-paid green jobs across the country, showing solidarity with countries around the world that were struggling economically even before coronavirus hit.

Amidst a global threat to human rights and democracy, this crisis has also brought forward the possibility of an economic revival that ensures resilience to future crises, including the climate emergency. The inequality laid bare and further exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic must be tackled as part of the recovery. Our public services and the essential role key workers and unpaid carers have played over the last year has reminded us of their central role. Investment in the public sector, and ensuring the adequate pay of key workers will be essential to ensure our resilience in the future. And in order to ensure our economic sustainability, with so many workers still furloughed and so many jobs under threat in particular sectors, now is the time to protect workers' rights, as well as investing in training and transition to green jobs.

The Scottish Election is a rare chance to markedly accelerate the repurposing of government away from the prioritisation of economic growth and towards goals of wellbeing and sustainability, ending inequality and environmental destruction and showing global solidarity. This is a time for system change.

These are the steps we believe must be followed to deliver a just and green recovery (please also see the attached briefing with more detail of our policy asks):

- 1. Provide essential public services for people, not profit.** Expand public ownership of public services and boost investment, including in social care, strengthen the NHS and cradle-to-grave education, and create zero-carbon social and cooperative housing instead of buy-to-let.
- 2. Protect marginalised people and those on low incomes by redistributing wealth.** Provide adequate incomes for all instead of bailouts for shareholders, significantly raise taxes on the wealthy, ensure all public workers receive at least the real Living Wage and strengthen health, safety and

workers' rights, including access to flexible home working. Investigate and mitigate the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 and social distancing on women, children and young people, disabled people, LGBTI people, people of colour, key workers, unpaid carers, private renters, and those on lower incomes.

**3. Provide new funds to transform our society and economy to meet Scotland's Fair Share of climate emissions cuts and greatly enhance biodiversity.** Create and protect jobs in sustainable travel, renewable heat, affordable local food and energy efficiency, with ambitious green employment opportunities for young people and support for retraining where whole industries are affected. Put measures in place to ensure all government programmes tackle inequality, public health and the just transition away from fossil fuels and other polluting industries, excluding rogue employers, tax avoiders, major polluters and arms manufacturers from bailouts.

**4. Strengthen democracy and human rights during these crises.** Withdraw new police powers, surveillance measures and restrictions on protest as soon as possible. Enable full scrutiny of planning and policy decisions. Create an independent Recovery Commission founded on participatory democracy to engage and empower communities, trade unions and civil society. Introduce fundamental human rights into Scots law so that safety nets are always in place for the most vulnerable.

**5. Offer solidarity across borders** by proactively supporting an international Coronavirus and climate emergency response that challenges the scapegoating of migrants, centres on the worst affected, bolsters global public health, development and environmental bodies, and ensures equitable access to COVID-19 treatments and vaccines. Use the UN climate talks in Glasgow to push for robust implementation of the Paris deal, platforming the voices of indigenous and frontline communities and advancing climate finance and global debt cancellation. Ensure coherence between all domestic policy and global sustainable development outcomes.

Decisions made in times of crisis have long-lasting consequences. After the 2008 financial crisis, inequality grew and climate emissions spiralled. We want to see this moment seized for the common good, not repeat the mistakes of the past.

The new Scottish Parliament faces a big responsibility as it leads Scotland in its recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. We hope that [Scottish Labour] will grasp the opportunity to pursue a just and green recovery from this health emergency. As many have said already, most citizens don't want to go back to normal – normal wasn't good enough. Let's start with this positive and ambitious vision of a future Scotland, make transformational change and build back better than before.

We hope that your party will pledge your support for all five of our steps towards a just, green recovery in Scotland. Please tell us in your reply about how your party will deliver a just, green recovery from Covid and what policies you would put in place to bring to life our five Asks. We will share the replies we receive with the coalition and on our website at: [justgreenrecovery.scot](http://justgreenrecovery.scot)

A briefing paper is also attached which includes more in depth details of our policy asks.

Yours sincerely,

**The Just and Green Recovery Scotland campaign**

The Just and Green Recovery Scotland campaign is supported by:

Aberdeen Climate Action	NUS Scotland
Biofuelwatch	Nurses United UK
Cairngorms Campaign	Operation Noah
CEMVO	People and Planet Society Edinburgh
Children in Scotland	People's Health Movement Scotland
Christian Aid	Planning Democracy
Climate Camp Scotland	Platform
Cloudberry Communities CIC	Poverty Alliance
Common Weal	Prospect James Hutton Institute Branch
Communication Workers Union (CWU)	Protect Our Winters UK
Community Energy Scotland	Quakers in Scotland
Creative Carbon Scotland	Revive: the coalition for grouse moor reform
Divest Strathclyde	Royal Scottish Geographical Society
Don't Bank on the Bomb Scotland	Scottish Catholic International Aid Foundation
East Linton Melting Pot	Scot.E3
Eco-Congregation Scotland	Scotland's International Development Alliance
Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council	Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
Educational Institute of Scotland	Scottish Communities Climate Action Network
Ethnic Minority Environmental Network	Scottish Community Alliance
Extinction Rebellion Aberdeen	Scottish Community Development Centre
Extinction Rebellion Scotland	Scottish Episcopal Church
Food for Good coalition	Scottish Raptor Study Group
Friends of the Earth Scotland	Secure Scotland
Gaia Education	SHRUB
Get Glasgow Moving	Social Value UK
Glasgow Calls Out Polluters	Sustaining Dunbar
Glasgow Mutual Aid	Scottish Youth Climate Strike
Global Justice Now	Tax Justice UK
Green New Deal UK	Tearfund Scotland
Halo Trust	Thrive
Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust	Transition Black Isle
Highland Cycle Campaign	Transition Edinburgh
IIED	Tripod: Training for Creative Social Action
Jubilee Scotland	Universities and Colleges Union
Landworkers Alliance	UNISON Scotland
Living Rent	Water Witness International
Medact	We Own It
Natural Change	Wellbeing Economy Alliance Scotland
Nourish Scotland	Whale and Dolphin Conservation
	Young Friends of the Earth Scotland