LfS Scotland AGM and Networking event 10 January 2020

Preparing for COP26: Caroline Rance, Friends of the Earth (Scotland)

Workshop Notes

1. What it is:

- Annual ‘Conference of the Parties’ under the [UN Framework Convention on Climate Change](https://unfccc.int) (UNFCCC)
- UN Climate Change Conference (UNCCC) being held in Glasgow from 09 – 20 November 2020

2. What we can expect:

2 x ‘layers’:

a. ‘Inside’ – UNCCC space:
   - Parallel negotiations: influencing strategy; particularly around accelerating ambition: esp. in terms of help from global north to south
   - Often dominated by larger, wealthier nations
   - Very few have access: NGOs can get ‘observer’ status but are not allowed to contribute
   - Includes ‘side events’ – press conferences & side events on vast range of themes. Contributions from government representatives and accredited organisations.

b. ‘Outside’ – civil society
   - Parallel Youth Conference being put together now. Youth NGO ‘constituency’ are allowed as ‘inside’ observers and are permitted to give some speeches
   - Most important aspect is holding what’s happening ‘inside’ to account
   - Still all very controlled: e.g. permits needed to organise any kind of actions.
   - Also the ‘counter-summit’ = ‘people’s summit’: space for people to come together.
3. How you can get involved:

- Depends on your organisation and its priorities.

- There will be:
  - Marches
  - Youth conference
  - Alternative People’s Summit

- However, on offer are several key opportunities:
  - Build the climate movement
  - Raise awareness of what ‘climate justice’ means
  - Advance climate action here in Scotland
  - Ensuring we are good allies to those affected by climate change, and being aware of ‘greenwash’ and corporate agendas.

The COP26 Coalition has been set up with representatives from Scotland/Rest of UK to pull together consensus/activity from civil society. It comprises a steering group with ‘task groups’ looking at logistics, fundraising and communications. 2 meetings have been held so far in Scotland and 2 in the Rest of UK. A central website is being set up to ensure co-ordination of events. Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) are co-ordinating this.

### 4. Questions from workshop attendees & answers from Caroline:

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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<td>a. Do external questions from e.g. NGOs ever make their way into the main ‘inside’ discussion?</td>
<td>A – Some NGOs have ‘passes’ that can enable them to have access to the ‘inside’ discussions but there is no formal mechanism for this. Doors can also be closed on negotiations…</td>
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<td>b. How do you get one of these passes?</td>
<td>A – You need to be accredited – this can take up to two years. There are several organisations that are accredited in Scotland, including FoES.</td>
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<td>c. It’s anticipated that there will be tension between the UK and Scottish governments on this. Thoughts?</td>
<td>A – Scotland doesn’t have her own seat at this – we are part of the UK delegation. Role of Scottish Government still to be decided. The UK has been part of an EU bloc until now.</td>
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<td>d. How do we ensure effective links/avoid reinventing the wheel?</td>
<td>A - Workshop attendees were invited to leave their email addresses with Caroline in order to be added to the Coalition’s mailing list.</td>
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<td>e. What’s happening beyond Glasgow?</td>
<td>A - Joined-up thinking needs to go beyond this location and this November timeframe. COP26-related events ahead of and after the conference should be branded as such.</td>
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<td>f. How is SCCS spreading the word about their co-ordinating role and the central website so that others/everyone can be part of it?</td>
<td>A – Caroline is to liaise with SCCS on this – a media pack was mentioned for organisations like LfSS to help spread the word; to include Rest of UK-facing messages as well as Scottish.</td>
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Kirsten Leask 10 Jan 2020