Grassroots Global Justice Alliance (GGJ) arrives at the 27th UNFCCC Conference of the Parties with No False Solutions!

Defend Human Rights & the Rights of Indigenous Peoples!

Climate Reparations Now!

GGJ Delegation at COP27
Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt
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The African continent, the Middle East and North African (MENA) region, the Americas, the Pacific Islands, and across the Global South. Global North countries responsible for the vast majority of historic greenhouse gas emissions causing the accelerating climate crisis owe a massive debt to Global South countries that are disproportionately impacted by climate disasters. At COP27, as countries negotiate funding to address loss and damage from climate impacts, we demand Climate Reparations. This includes a range of resources and support, from foreign debt cancellation to public funding direct to impacted communities. We oppose finance mechanisms that channel funding through international banks and financial institutions, like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, that demand returns on their funds and policy changes like deregulation in recipient countries, fundamentally in service of the financial interests of Global North countries and corporations. We call for direct funding to impacted countries and communities in the form of public grants, not strings-attached loans and other colonial finance mechanisms that create financialized products drawing profits from people’s suffering. Climate reparations must center Black, Indigenous, and frontline impacted communities, including transparent governance and robust community engagement.

Human Rights and Indigenous Rights
We stand in solidarity with calls to solutions that center the leadership of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Arab, Asian, Pacific Islander, rural, and urban frontline communities—those most impacted by climate pollution and disaster. Even now, as people over the world suffer record-breaking climate devastation, the COP remains captured by fossil fuel interests. Fossil fuel corporations continue to profit off false solutions like carbon offsets and trading, while movements of impacted peoples from around the world are demanding and building real solutions. GGJ comes to COP27 in Egypt, joining calls from frontline impacted peoples across the world for real climate solutions that center human rights and justice.

Climate Reparations Now

As leaders gather for COP27, one of the most central debates on the agenda is how to address climate finance, loss and damage, and the tremendous climate debt owed by Global North countries—who caused the climate crisis—to Global South countries who are experiencing the worst climate impacts. We align with demands for climate reparations to be paid by the U.S. as the leading driver of the global climate crisis and from other Global North countries who have benefitted from centuries of colonialism and extravagism across
respect and uphold human rights in all aspects of the UNFCCC negotiations, as well as locally in Egypt, in recognition of the human rights struggle of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Egypt, inside the U.S., and around the world. As COP27 begins, prisoner of conscience Alaa Abd El-Fattah has spent over 200 days on hunger strike. The conditions in Egypt, as well as human rights abuses perpetrated by the United States, make human rights a central concern of the global negotiations. The outcomes of this COP and the continued implementation of the Paris Agreement must protect the rights of environmental defenders and ensure that any government action to meet climate objectives do not violate human rights.

We come from a country that created the blueprint for the large-scale carceral state. The United States has the largest per capita incarceration rate in the world by far, with 1.9 million people behind bars. We echo the call of movements around the world to Free Them All! We stand in solidarity with tens of thousands of Egyptians, and the millions more around the world surviving excruciating conditions. We demand the release of all political and environmental defenders, and the respect of human rights and Indigenous rights in all actions governments take to address the climate crisis.

No False Solutions—Keep it in the Ground

At COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, states concluded negotiations on the Paris Agreement Rulebook, including finalizing the rules of Article 6 which governs global carbon markets. Unfortunately, this conclusion locked in a regime that maintains the opening for false, market-based climate solutions like cap-and-trade and carbon offsets that fail time and again. COP continues to be a tradeshow for these false solutions and other fantasy technologies like carbon capture, biofuels, and hydrogen energy that prolong the life of the polluting fossil fuel industry and harm communities.

To hold polluters accountable, the UNFCCC must end fossil fuel collusion at the COP and the illusion of net zero. We demand an end to carbon trading, offset mechanisms, gas, carbon capture and sequestration, fossil fuel-based hydrogen, large hydro-electric dams, biofuels, and false solutions in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. No Net Zero—Keep It In the Ground!

When we talk about real climate solutions, we are talking about directly cutting emissions at the source of pollution. It is that simple. Refineries, incinerators, agrobusiness, military jet fuel—all the largest polluting industries need to cut emissions and be directly regulated. We know the harm they cause because we live in the communities where these polluting industries are based. That is why Black, Indigenous, and frontline communities globally are leading movements for a Just Transition away from the fossil fuel economy.

Decolonize, Demilitarise, Decarbonize

Colonial extraction is at the root of climate chaos. Communities across the U.S. and the world are devastated by military occupation, war, and state-sanctioned violence that supports expanding fossil fuel and resource extraction. The U.S. military is not only the single largest consumer of fossil fuels on Earth, it enforces the occupation of Indigenous and sovereign lands while upholding violent resource extraction globally. Addressing climate change requires ending the military industrial complex and the UNFCCC must confront militarization as a driver of
climate chaos.

A Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy must end wars, military culture, and the violence of militarized forces and police in our communities and around the world. Military pollution remains excluded from international climate negotiations, and was not addressed by the 2015 Paris Agreement. But winding down the U.S. military is not out of reach—it is necessary. A grassroots vision with these demands lays the path in the 15th Plank of the People’s Orientation to a Regenerative Economy: Divest from wars, criminalization, and militarism at home and abroad—and invest in a regenerative future.

Climate justice requires abolishing militarism and ending war profiteering.

Gender Justice is Climate Justice

Building a Just Transition requires investing in a feminist economy, investing in the care sector, and following the leadership of women and femme-identifying people. Globally, women and femmes are at higher risk from fossil fuel economy harms and climate crises. In North America, a crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, femmes, two spirit, and gender non-conforming (GNC) people has stolen the lives of our relatives and loved ones at the sites of fossil fuel extraction where “man camps” crop up. In a world of increasing conflict and migration due to climate crisis, many women and girls face risk of trafficking and gender-based violence. Reversing climate crisis means defending justice, dignity, and sovereignty for women, femmes, and GNC people.

In a feminist economy, we recognize, value, and center reproductive labor—low-carbon, community-generating, life-affirming, and skilled work—that is necessary for our well-being and to sustain society and nature itself. A feminist economy focuses on ensuring bodily autonomy and self-determination of feminized and GNC people; socializing reproductive labor; being in right relationship with people globally, and being in right relationship with nature. An economy of care and stewardship is the path to a regenerative economy.

Systems change, not climate change

In this moment of crisis, we call for an end to the capture of the international climate negotiations by greedy fossil fuel corporations, and the climate injustice perpetrated by Global North countries whose wealth is fueled by centuries of colonial extractivism. The basis of a renewed future must be grassroots leadership advancing real solutions for a Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy—an economy based in food sovereignty, energy democracy, free prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples and communities, climate reparations, demilitarization, and gender justice.