

Founding Charter:

Satyagraha Against Climate Injustice **A Global Nonviolent Movement for Climate Justice**

Preamble

We stand at a moment when climate change is no longer a distant threat. It is a present reality affecting communities, ecosystems and future generations.

Yet the climate crisis is also a crisis of justice. Those who have contributed least to greenhouse-gas emissions often face some of the greatest consequences. Indigenous peoples, small farmers, coastal communities, low-income populations, workers, children and future generations are among those whose lives and livelihoods are increasingly placed at risk.

We therefore believe that the climate crisis cannot be addressed by technology and policy alone. It requires a transformation of human relationships—with one another, with nature and with the Earth.

Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of **Satyagraha** and **Ahimsa**, and learning from indigenous, ecological, social-justice and nonviolent traditions throughout the world, we commit ourselves to a global struggle for climate justice.

We call this struggle:

Satyagraha Against Climate Injustice.

I. What We Mean by Climate Satyagraha

Climate Satyagraha is the nonviolent pursuit of truth and justice in response to the climate crisis.

It means confronting climate injustice without hatred or violence; refusing cooperation with systems that cause serious and preventable harm; accepting personal sacrifice rather than imposing sacrifice upon the vulnerable; and simultaneously constructing practical alternatives based on ecological responsibility, equality and human dignity.

Climate Satyagraha therefore has two inseparable dimensions:

Resistance to injustice.

and

Construction of a just alternative.

II. Our Ten Principles

1. Truth

We will seek, speak and defend the truth about climate change, its causes, consequences and unequal distribution.

We reject denial, deliberate misinformation and the concealment of environmental harm.

2. Ahimsa — Nonviolence

Our struggle will be nonviolent in its methods, language and objectives.

We will not seek to destroy people or communities. We seek to transform unjust systems while respecting the dignity of those with whom we disagree.

3. Climate Justice

We recognize that responsibility, vulnerability, resources and power are unequally distributed.

Climate solutions must therefore be guided by **equity, human rights and historical responsibility**, not merely by aggregate emissions or economic efficiency.

4. Protection of the Vulnerable

We place particular emphasis on communities that are disproportionately exposed to climate harm and have fewer resources to adapt.

Their knowledge, rights and leadership must be central to climate decision-making.

5. Intergenerational Justice

We recognize future generations as moral stakeholders.

We have no right to consume the ecological foundations of life in ways that leave future generations with diminished choices and greater risks.

6. Ecological Responsibility

The Earth is not merely a storehouse of resources.

We will promote ways of living and producing that respect ecological limits, biodiversity and the integrity of natural systems.

7. Voluntary Self-Restraint

Following the principle of **Swaraj**, we recognize that freedom includes the capacity to govern our own consumption.

We will encourage lifestyles that reduce unnecessary consumption and demonstrate that human well-being need not depend upon endless material growth.

8. Constructive Programme

Resistance alone is insufficient.

We will build alternatives through renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, ecological restoration, community resilience, responsible consumption, education and locally led solutions.

9. Democratic Participation

People affected by climate decisions must have a meaningful voice in those decisions.

No community should be treated merely as an object of climate policy.

10. Global Solidarity

Climate injustice crosses national borders.

We therefore seek solidarity among peoples of different countries, cultures, generations and economic circumstances while respecting the autonomy and leadership of local communities.

III. Who Is a Satyagrahi?

A **Climate Satyagrahi** is a person who commits to pursuing climate truth and justice through nonviolent means.

A Satyagrahi does not need to belong to a particular organization, nationality, religion or political movement.

A Satyagrahi commits to:

- learn the truth about the climate crisis;
- resist injustice without hatred;
- avoid violence against people and property;
- accept reasonable personal inconvenience or sacrifice for a just cause;
- reduce their own unnecessary ecological harm;
- stand in solidarity with vulnerable communities;
- listen before speaking on behalf of others;
- participate in constructive solutions; and
- treat opponents as human beings capable of transformation.

Satyagraha begins with the transformation of the Satyagrahi.

IV. The Methods of Climate Satyagraha

Climate Satyagraha may take many forms, provided they remain consistent with nonviolence and respect for human dignity.

These may include:

- public education and truth-telling;

- peaceful marches and vigils;
- nonviolent civil disobedience;
- boycotts and non-cooperation;
- climate fasts undertaken voluntarily and responsibly;
- community organizing;
- legal and democratic advocacy;
- divestment and ethical investment campaigns;
- protection of threatened ecosystems;
- citizen assemblies and participatory democracy;
- sustainable-living campaigns;
- ecological restoration;
- renewable-energy initiatives; and
- solidarity actions with communities experiencing climate injustice.

The objective is not to punish an opponent.

The objective is to reveal injustice, withdraw cooperation from it, awaken conscience and create conditions for transformation.

V. The Climate Satyagraha Pledge

I pledge to seek truth about the climate crisis.

I pledge to resist climate injustice without hatred or violence.

I pledge to stand with those who suffer its greatest consequences.

I pledge to examine my own consumption and accept reasonable personal sacrifice.

I pledge to listen to communities whose lands, livelihoods and cultures are threatened.

I pledge to resist systems of injustice while respecting the humanity of those within them.

I pledge not only to protest what is wrong, but to help build what is right.

I pledge to work for a world in which present and future generations can live with dignity within the limits of a living Earth.

Truth shall guide us.

Nonviolence shall be our method.

Justice shall be our purpose.

Swaraj shall begin with ourselves.

VI. A Global Coalition

Satyagraha Against Climate Injustice should not seek to replace existing movements.

It should seek to **connect them**.

Potential participants could include:

- Gandhian organizations and movements;
- Indigenous peoples' organizations;
- youth climate movements;
- environmental-justice organizations;
- farmers' and food-sovereignty movements;
- workers and trade unions engaged in just-transition efforts;
- faith communities;
- scientists and educators;
- human-rights organizations;
- artists and cultural movements;
- community organizations; and
- individuals acting as Climate Satyagrahis.

Participation should not require agreement on every political question.

The common ground is:

climate truth + justice + nonviolence + solidarity + constructive action.

VII. A Global Day of Climate Satyagraha

We propose establishing an annual:

Global Climate Satyagraha Day

On this day, people around the world would undertake a peaceful act of truth, solidarity or constructive action.

Depending on local circumstances, this could include:

- a peaceful public gathering;
- a climate justice march;
- a community tree or ecosystem restoration project;
- a voluntary day of reduced consumption;
- a public fast;
- a dialogue between communities and decisionmakers;
- a youth assembly;
- a vigil for communities affected by climate disasters; or
- a nonviolent campaign against a specific instance of climate injustice.

The day should not be centrally controlled.

The principle is global; the action is local.

VIII. Our Vision

We envision a world in which climate action is not imposed upon the vulnerable but created with them.

A world in which development does not require the destruction of ecosystems.

A world in which those who have benefited most from environmental exploitation accept greater responsibility for repair.

A world in which technology serves humanity without replacing moral responsibility.

A world in which consumption is guided by sufficiency rather than excess.

A world in which young people inherit possibilities rather than debts to the past.

And a world in which humanity understands that protecting the Earth is not merely an environmental obligation.

It is an act of justice, solidarity and peace.

Our Call

We invite individuals and movements everywhere to join this effort.

Not as followers of a single leader.

Not as members of a single political ideology.

But as **Satyagrahis for the Earth.**

Seek the truth.

Resist injustice.

Refuse violence.

Accept sacrifice.

Build alternatives.

Stand together.

Satyagraha against Climate Injustice

One Earth. One human family. One shared responsibility.