



Climate-Parent delegation to COP27 Biographical Information

Background

[Our Kids' Climate](#) and [Parents For Future Global](#) are bringing a delegation of accomplished mother and youth climate leaders from South Africa, Ghana, Botswana and India to Sharm El Sheikh during COP27.

These women, all of whom are prominent community organisers in their national contexts, will bring the 'Kids First!' message to the COP via creative communications, media work and panel discussions.

They will be focused on making sure that children's health, futures and rights are central to discussions and negotiations at COP27. We will continue to build on the work from COP26 on the urgency of tackling air pollution and advancing a just transition to life-saving clean energy, as well as amplify calls for climate finance from richer countries for developing countries for mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage. Throughout, we will centre children's voices and emphasise how children, and future generations, are being unfairly impacted by climate breakdown.

This work builds on the successes of the parent-climate movement at COP26, where we secured the sign-on of 500 parent groups from 44 countries, representing millions of parents, to an [open letter](#) calling for world leaders to end new fossil fuels financing. We brought together a global mother-led delegation that met with COP26 President Alok Sharma.

The COP26 parent work was captured, inter alia, in the [New York Times](#), [Guardian](#) and [Scotsman](#), as well as media outlets in [BBC Brasil](#), [Quint \(India\)](#) and [the Mail and the Guardian in South Africa](#).

Biographies of parent-climate delegation to Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

[Xoli Fuyani, South Africa](#)



Xoli has been working with schools and intergenerational groups in South Africa on environmental awareness for over 10 years. She has worked in-depth with children from townships, inspiring them to live sustainability and supporting them to be climate activists. Xoli is the Climate Education Lead for the African Climate Alliance, the founder of Black Girls Rising, and a skilled facilitator. This year, she joined the Our Kids' Climate core team, focusing on developing African-led narratives and member outreach.

She is currently mentoring young climate activists who are involved in landmark coal litigation that is exposing the harm caused by [toxic air pollution from open cast coal mines](#). The case was filed by civil society organisations in November after the government refused to abandon its plans to build a new coal-fired power plant.

The #CancelCoal case seeks to expose how air and water pollution from open cast coal mines is impacting the physical and mental health of communities, especially children, and makes the case for a just transition on economic, health, and constitutional grounds. More details [here](#).

[Patience Agyekum, Ghana](#)



Patience works with children, young people, and parents to push for clean air, climate action, and accountability from policymakers in Ghana.

She leads policy-level advocacy at the Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND), working to ensure that the voices of young people are heard and included in Ghana's climate plans. She led the formation of a new Parents for Future group in Ghana in June 2022 as part of her project under the Climate Parent Fellowship.

Patience is also part of the Coalition of Air Quality and Environmental Management (CAQM) in Ghana, a group of civil society organisations, academics, and journalists advocating for the government to put in place policies that prevent air pollution. The coalition formed following [research](#) published by the World Bank Office in Ghana that revealed air pollution to be the number one environmental risk to the country's public health.

[Bhavreen Kandhari, India](#)



Bhavreen is an inspiring and experienced campaigner who has been pushing for clean air in India and beyond for over two decades. She is a co-founder of Warrior Moms, which brings mothers together across India to call for clean air for the sake of their children's health.

Bhavreen has spearheaded other public movements and campaigns in India to call for action on environmental justice issues, such as 'My Right To Breathe' and 'Delhi Trees SOS'. Bhavreen is an accomplished media spokesperson and public speaker, who has been quoted in over a 100 articles in the Indian and international press. Her campaigning is motivated by her twin daughters and her concerns about Delhi's excessively polluted air.

Bhavreen has written about her work in Early Childhood Review ([here](#)). She also gave an interview about her journey into clean air activism as part of a series on Inspirational Women ([here](#)).

[Thato Gabaitse, Botswana](#)



Thato is a youth and parent activist from Botswana. She works to raise awareness of how climate change is impacting communities in her country and pushes for climate action at both

the national and international levels. She represented the climate-parent movement at the Stockholm+50, where she spoke about the impact of fossil fuels on children's health and futures. She is also affiliated with the RiseUp Movement and Fridays For Future Most Affected Peoples and Areas (MAPA).

Thato works as an outreach coordinator for [We, The World](#) and established a [WE Campaign](#) chapter to tackle social and environmental issues in Botswana. She has designed a program - Unleashing the African Potential - that offers a holistic approach to communities in rural and remote areas. This program offers social and economic empowerment initiatives, environmental stewardship through storytelling, awareness campaigns and educational workshops in financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills.

Thato is involved in an air pollution project advocating for low emissions legislation, with two key aims: (1) addressing the lack of instruments/standards for imported vehicles and creating low emission zones in industrial areas; and (2) policy reforms that encourage an investment in alternatives such as cycling and an improved and reliable public transport system.

[Juliana Russar, Brazil](#)



Juliana has been working on climate change for more than 15 years. She was the Brazil coordinator at 350.org and the Global Call for Climate Action, where she led the country's participation in the Unmask My City project, a global initiative by doctors, nurses, public health practitioners, and allied health professionals dedicated to improving air quality and reducing emissions in cities around the world. She currently manages the Climate Parent Fellowship and is part of Our Kids' Climate core team. She is also one of the co-founders of Engajamundo and the collective Clímax Brasil. She is one of the Co-Directors of Youth Climate Leaders in Brazil and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Plant for the Planet in the country.

[Maya Mailer, UK](#)



Maya is the Our Kids' Climate Co-Director, where she works with parent-climate leaders and grassroots groups from around the world to build global initiatives for clean air, renewable energy and climate justice. She is also the co-founder of [Mothers Rise Up](#) that carries out cutting-edge creative campaigns to call out the role that the insurance industry plays in enabling dangerous fossil fuel projects, such as the proposed East African Crude Oil Pipeline.

Maya has helped spearhead the #KidsFirst campaign that aims to amplify and champion children's fears, hopes and dreams at COP27.

She has over 15 years progressive experience in strategy and coalition building. Maya was Oxfam's Head of Humanitarian Policy and Campaigns and lead humanitarian media spokesperson. She has lived in Kenya and South Sudan and travelled across Africa and the Middle East, where she has seen first hand the impact of climate disasters and extreme weather.

Her journey into climate organising began when her young children (now aged 11, 9 and 4) returned from school asking worried questions about the climate crisis. She has written about parent-led climate organising in the Huffington Post ([here](#)), in the Early Childhood Review ([here](#)) and on the Oxfam blog From Poverty To Power ([here](#)).

For further information contact:

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