

NEWSFLASH

Our future now!

#CANCELCOAL OUR FUTURE NOW

Leading the Charge to End New Coal for our Just Future



WELCOME

Welcome to the #CancelCoal Newsflash where you can keep in the loop with the latest developments in our fight against new coal power in South Africa. With each issue, we'll bring you updates on our landmark legal case, the latest news updates related to the just energy transition from around the world as well as sharing events and a platform for activists to share their hopes and imaginations for a fairer future. We hope you enjoy the read!

LATEST NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- NEWSFLASH
- ART OF THE WEEK
- ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



NEWSFLASH

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PASSES THE RAILWAY SAFETY BILL AND THE CLIMATE CHANGE BILL – PARLIAMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

The National Assembly, during its hybrid plenary on Tuesday afternoon, passed the Climate Change Bill and Railway Safety Bill respectively. The Climate Change Bill was tabled to parliament in 2022 and is the first piece of legislation in South Africa that is aimed at addressing climate change through implementing a fair, long-term transition plan that will foster a low-carbon, climate-resilient future. It provides that different levels of government work together in assessing climate risks and expected impacts, as well as creating response plans to curb these impacts. On the other hand, the Railway Safety Bill is intended to amend the National Railway Safety Regulator Act 16 of 2002 to ensure that rail becomes a more viable mode of transportation that will also contribute towards economic growth to combat inequality, poverty and unemployment. It further promotes rail as an efficient mode of transport and aims to facilitate a more modern, flexible and efficient regulatory regime for enhancing railway operations in the country. Both Bills have been sent to the National Council of Provinces for concurrence where if approved, will become official law or Acts. [More here](#)

SA HAS R660 BILLION SHORTFALL ON ITS R1.5 TRILLION JUST CLIMATE TRANSITION PLAN

Minister Barbara Creecy has revealed that South Africa still faces a R660 billion financing shortfall for the just energy transition, which is expected to cost R1.5 trillion over the next five years, despite \$11.5 billion in commitments from wealthy nations including the UK, US, Denmark, the Netherlands and Spain. Government is actively sourcing this finance from various public and private sources including multilateral development banks, international partner countries, the private sector among others. This financing will go towards funding alternative employment in coal mining areas given the economy's reliance on coal in the highveld, in addition to decommissioning of coal-fired power plants. Julius Malema expressed vehement disagreement with decommissioning of coal power stations, adding that the party would not endorse the \$8.5 billion agreement should EFF assume power in elections next year. Electricity minister Kgosientsho Ramokgopa expressed that coal, along with nuclear and gas are expected to be significant contributors to SA's base load for the foreseeable future. [More here](#)

AFRICA AND INDIA URGE FASTER FOSSIL FUEL PHASE-OUT IN COP28 POSITIONS

At COP28, economically advanced nations will be pressured to phase out fossil fuels quicker than emerging nations who contributed less towards the climate change crisis. The African Group of Negotiators are calling out emerging nations to stop supporting advanced fossil fuel production initiatives by 2030. A number of economically advanced nations have barred the ongoing reinforcements of fossil fuel production initiatives globally. Developed countries nations like the US, UK, Australia and Norway have continued to approve fossil fuel productions. To confront this, the African group has requested “differentiated pathways for countries in the pursuit of net zero and fossil fuel phasedown”. The African group has also requested emergent nations to provide financial assistance to developing nations in combating the climate change crisis through adaptation measures and addressing the exacerbating effects it has caused. The group informed the UN that it wanted COP28 to agree that emergent nations would issue \$200-400 billion annually for loss and damage and \$400 billion annually for climate change adaptation on top of the funds to lower emissions. [More here](#)

WHEN CONFLICT MEETS CLIMATE CHANGE, IN GAZA AND BEYOND

A 2020 report published by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) found that the combined consequences of conflict and climate change trigger far-reaching devastation as existing tensions over already-diminishing necessities are inflamed. Countries that are prone to armed conflict as . While the main driver of vulnerability in Gaza is conflict, rapidly intensifying adverse impacts of climate change are exacerbating vulnerability and reducing resilience especially since long-lasting occupation and blockade by the Apartheid state of Israel has caused severe food shortages, water, electricity and other essential services for the people of Gaza while completely devastating essential infrastructure. Israel’s collective punishment of Palestinians in Gaza has made adaptation to the climate crisis even more challenging as priorities of authorities are all focused toward curbing impacts of the ongoing occupation and blockade. The ICRC is currently investigating how Gaza’s resilience can be strengthened in light of ongoing challenges. [More here](#)

FROM CAR-FREE ZONES TO ARCTIC SOLAR POWER: POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL STORIES FROM 2023

As renewable energy soars, vulnerable ecosystems gain rights and climate protocols start to pay dividends, there is a marked change in trajectory in our collective fight against climate change in what signals a ‘sign of the times’. EuroNews Green has compiled a mix of positive stories from across the world detailing climate wins from across the world. Here are some of our favorites: scientists in Brazil have discovered a tree that was thought to have gone extinct 200 years ago in the urban city of Pernambuco holly, a draft report by Frans Timmermans shows that the EU is preparing for a ‘global phase-out’ of fossil fuels at COP28, 2000 white rhinos that were previously put up for auction will be released as part of the world’s biggest rewilding project, India has slashed emissions rates by one-third in 14 years which puts it on track to reach Paris Agreement 1.5 degree target, deforestation in the Amazon has dropped by 34 percent under Lula’s ongoing tenure, a new study by the Joule Journal finds that scaling down fossil fuels would hardly have financial impacts on the vast majority of people while oil and gas companies have the most to lose and lastly, the UN has adopted the world’s first ever high seas treaty to protect biodiversity in waters outside national boundaries. [More here](#)

ART OF THE WEEK

By Jacob Gordon

CHAINS THAT BIND

RED HOT IRON CHAINS BIND AND BURN OUR HANDS.
THE CHAINS OF PATRIARCHY AGAINST WHICH WE ALL MUST STAND.
WHEN MEN SHOW EMOTION, THEY GET TOLD THAT THEY'RE WEAK
BUT WHY THEN ARE WE SURPRISED WHEN THEY USE VIOLENCE TO SPEAK?

GBV RAPE AND FEMICIDE.
TOO MANY LIVES LOST. TOO MANY TEARS CRIED.
FROM RAPE CULTURE TO MISOGYNY, THE LIST DOESN'T END.
WE MUST TAKE A STAND IF WE WANT OUR WOUNDS TO MEND.

BEING GAY OR TRANSGENDER? HOW DISGUSTING, FOR SHAME!
WE'VE BECOME NIL BUT PAWNS IN PATRIARCHY'S SICK CHESS GAME.
WOMXN'S SOLE PURPOSE IS TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF MEN?
WHEN IS THIS INSANITY FINALLY GOING TO END.

MEN AND WOMXN HAVE STRICTLY DEFINED ROLES.
THE LOGIC OF THIS SYSTEM IS SIMPLY FULL OF HOLES!
WHEN WOMXN GOT UPSET THEY WERE JUST "HYSTERICAL"
IT WAS EASIER TO BLAME THE, THAN ADMIT WE WERE UNETHICAL

MEN DECIDED ON WOMXN'S ABORTION RIGHTS.
THE LEVEL OF CRAZINESS HAS REACHED NEW HEIGHTS.
PERIOD POVERTY AND STIGMAS STILL PREVALENT TODAY
SANITARY PRODUCTS AREN'T FREE, WOMXN AREN'T GIVEN A SAY.

WHEN WOMXN HAVE MANY PARTNERS, THEY GET LABELLED AS A SLUT.
BUT WHEN MEN DO THE SAME, THEY ARE PRAISED AND PROUDLY STRUT

WE MUST SMASH THE PATRIARCHY AND BURN IT TO THE GROUND.
FROM THE ASHES WE'LL REBUILD A BETTER SOCIETY WILL BE FOUND.
NOBODY IS EXEMPT! NO ACTION IS TOO SMALL!
WE'LL BREAK FREE OF THESE CHAINS AND BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL.

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT ON: JACOB GORDON

HI MY NAME IS JACOB GORDON. I AM CURRENTLY COMPLETING MY MATRIC YEAR. I BEGAN GETTING INVOLVED IN THE CLIMATE ACTIVISM SPACE IN 2020 WHEN I JOINED RAEESAH NOOR MOHAMED IN BEGINNING FRIDAYS FOR FUTURE HERE IN JOHANESSBURG OUTSIDE PARKTOWN GIRLS HIGH. FROM THEIR I GOT INVOLVED WITH THE CLIMATE JUSTICE CHARTER MOVEMENT AND EXTINCTION REBELLION SOUTH AFRICA. SINCE THEN I HAVE EXPANDED MY ACTIVISY FROM ACTIVISM THROUGH BEING MAINLY PROTESTS BOYCOTTS AND POSTING ONLINE TO ARTIVISM THROUGH POETRY AND MUSIC; POLICY AND DECISION MAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION AND RESEARCH. TO THIS END I HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF YOUTH@SAIIA.ORG WITH WHOM MY TEAMMATE AND I PLACED SECOND PLACE IN THE HIGH SCHOOL CATEGORY LAST YEAR IN THE YOUNG RESEARCHER'S SYMPOSIUM WITH MY RESEARCH PAPER ON IMPACT OF ANIMAL AGRICULTURE ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS IN A SOUTH AFRICAN CONTEXT; WAS A PART OF CREATING AND GETTING INPUT FOR THE NATIONAL SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION PLAN; WAS A PART OF THEIR YOUTH IMPLEMENTORS FOR CHANGE PROGRAMME AND MADE IT TO THE FINALS AND MORE. IN TERMS OF ARTIVISM I STARTED AS A MEANS TO COPE. I HAVE VERY STRONG EMOTIONS ABOUT THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND IT'S INTERSECTIONALITY WITH OTHER ISSUES AND IN ORDER TO PROCESS AND COPE WITH MY FEELINGS I BEGAN WRITING. I THEN DISCOVERED MUCH TO MY SURPRISE THAT I WAS QUITE GOOD AT IT AND THAT BY SHARING IT I COULD USE WORDS TO CREATE EMOTIONS IN PEOPLE TO DRAW THEM INTO THE FIGHT FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND INDEED SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN GENERAL SO I BEGAN TO SHARE MY WORK AND ENTER COMPETITIONS. IN TERMS OF MUSIC I LIKE ADAPTING EXISTING SONGS LYRICS TO SEND A MESSAGE SORT OF A PARODY IF THAT MAKES SENSE.

MY GOAL WITH THE ARTWORK THAT I AM SHARING IS TO MOTIVATE ACTION IN PEOPLE PARTICULARLY YOUTH WHO I BELIEVE ARE OFTEN APATHETIC AND ALSO TO CALL OUT THE PEOPLE WHO GOT US INTO THE MESS BIG CORPORATE INDUSTRY CAPITLISTS AND NEO LIBERALS THE BEST EXAMPLE I CAN GIVE OF THIS IS MY POEM A MESSAGE TO THE RICH. ASIDE FROM THAT I WANT TO GIVE A VOICE TO THE VOICELESS I LIKE TO WRITE FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE EARTH/MOTHER NATURE IF SHE COULD TALK OR THE PERSPECTIVE OF ALL THE ANIMALS WHOSE HOMES WE DESTROY FOR PROFIT ETC.

IF YOU WANT TO SEE MORE OF MY WORK I DON'T HAVE ANY SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES DEDICATED TO ARTIVISM BUT YOU ARE WELCOME TO EMAIL ME ON JACOBGORDON302@GMAIL.COM AND I'LL HAPPILY SHARE MY PIECES :)

