

A call to climate action

# Charter for change

## Opening statements

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*We women of the Women's Climate Congress and others despair that Earth is hurtling towards catastrophic climate change that humanity is failing to mitigate.*

*We grieve the unfolding and potentially irreversible impacts on all current and future life unless immediate and effective action is taken.*

This Charter is a call to action from the hearts of women, *in all our diversity*, to urgently secure the climate and build ongoing human and planetary wellbeing. To this end, we urge collaboration and cooperation in governance to build inclusive, fair and united policy approaches.



This flyer shows the key themes. See the full text of the Charter with 'Calls for action' here:

[womensclimatecongress.com/charter](https://womensclimatecongress.com/charter)

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## Immediate actions to secure the climate

### **ACTION 1 Embrace gender-balanced, inclusive governance**

We claim full, equal and meaningful participation in decision making and action towards a climate-secure, peaceful and compassionate future. In this future, all human lives are valued and the diversity of life experiences (such as age, culture, sexuality, ability) are seen as vital for good decision making.

### **ACTION 2 Take responsibility**

We take collective responsibility for our role in the current climate emergency through the privileges of modern lifestyles. We acknowledge that these benefits have not been shared by all.

### **ACTION 3 Create a unified national plan**

We call on political parties, businesses, industries and community leaders to work together to comply with scientific advice to secure the climate, and to transition our economy and lifestyles sustainably and justly.

## Actions for long-term human and planetary wellbeing

### **ACTION 4 Listen to and learn from First Nations knowledge**

We affirm that First Nations peoples hold a deep connection to the Earth. Their First Law teaches how to live in reciprocal relationship with the land, and describes our human duty of care for the Earth, which gives life, love and provision to all life.

### **ACTION 5 Uphold intergenerational equity and the rights of all Earth life**

We commit to the wellbeing of future human generations and all of Earth's biodiversity. We call for human and planetary wellbeing to be considered in the development and implementation of all policies.

### **ACTION 6 Elevate compassion and kindness in government**

We propose that qualities of the heart (such as compassion, love, kindness, empathy, forgiveness) are the basis of true strength and decision making. These qualities can be respected, elevated and applied in government.

### **ACTION 7 Support artistic imagination and creative thinking at the centre of society**

We recognise that the symbolic thinking and prophetic imagination of artists and storytellers conveys knowledge about the right ways to live with Earth and each other. In many ancient and Indigenous cultures this remains central.

### **ACTION 8 Create paths and policies for respect, nonviolence and peace**

We recognise that peace is made by building relationships of trust and understanding among peoples and cultures, and with the Earth and all living things.

### **ACTION 9 Adopt life-sustaining economic models and values**

We value the life-sustaining gifts of nature, and the gifts of homemaking, caring and nurture of life, as having complementary economic value with industrial and commercial services.

### **ACTION 10 Encourage citizen participation in governance**

We recognise that, at the heart of democracy, citizens' concerns are the basis for change. Participatory processes allow citizens to take part in decision making and create change.

### **ACTION 11 Support education fit for purpose into the future**

We support the valuable work of educators to ensure all children and citizens in Australia are educated in the full story of colonial settlement and the subsequent impacts upon First Nations peoples, biodiversity and environments.