

## **Testimonies from the International Student Parliament for Climate Justice**

Organised by the Department of Ecological Concerns, CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese in partnership with CMS College (Autonomous), Kottayam – June 6, 2025

### **Introduction**

With a powerful declaration — “We are victims of a crisis we didn’t create. We cannot wait for endless discussions. We demand action—now” — the International Student Parliament for Climate Justice, jointly organised by the Ecological Department of the CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese and CMS College (Autonomous), Kottayam, concluded on a note of urgency and hope.

Held at the historic Great Hall of CMS College, the Parliament brought together students from the Church of South India who symbolically represented 17 climate-vulnerable regions across the globe. From Tuvalu to the Sundarbans, and from Greenland to Madagascar, young voices echoed a shared plea: justice for those most affected by climate change, especially in the Global South.

This was no simulation or academic exercise. It was a moral and prophetic assembly, where children of the Church of South India spoke with clarity and courage in the lead-up to COP 30. Their final resolution urged immediate global intervention to lower rising temperatures and emphasized that climate change is not only an ecological or economic issue, but a spiritual and moral crisis demanding urgent ethical reflection and unified global action.

The following testimonies reflect the experiences, insights, and transformation of the student participants who served as Parliamentarians, Speakers, and Ministers during this groundbreaking event. (All the participants expressed gratitude to Rt Rev Dr Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian (Bishop), Dr Mathew Koshy Punnackadu (Direction, Theme, Script), Mr Ashok Alex Luke (Master Trainer), Rev Anil Thomas, Dr Nisha Ann Jacob, Mr Sudeep Cherian, Mr Asquith Ommen Alex (Supporting Team), and Prof Dr Anju Sosan George, Principal, CMS College, Kottayam (Host of the Parliament). Removed from individual testimonies to ensure smooth and focused reading.)

### **Joel Mathew Varughese, Mundathanam. (Ambassador of USA)**

Participating in the International Student Parliament was a breathtaking experience. It was the first time I could express global challenges and share my views on such a meaningful platform. Through this opportunity, I gained confidence in public speaking and understood how our voices can reach international forums. I firmly believe that climate justice begins with global recognition and collective action.

### **Nathaniel Abraham Kuruvilla, Machukadu. (Minister of Greenland)**

This event was a turning point in my student life. It boosted my confidence and helped me understand the global environmental crisis. I learned how to interact respectfully with others and found great value in the training. I now understand that climate justice is not just about facts but about our response to the pain of the Earth and our commitment to healing it.

### **Hannah Raichel Zachariah, Kulathupuzha. (Parliament Member of California)**

Initially, I hesitated to join because of stage fright. But this Parliament changed that. I gained courage, learned to work as part of a team, and discovered the joy of being part of something important. I now see climate justice as a shared mission where every small step matters in conserving the environment.

**Jesna Johnson, Mallassery. (Minister of Australia)**

Being selected as the minister for Canada and Australia made me so happy. This role taught me a lot, especially the importance of speaking up and understanding environmental issues. I feel proud to have been part of an event that made me realise the urgency of global climate action.

**Ananya Mary Mathew, Mallassery (Parliament Member of Canada)**

As a Parliament member representing Canada, I researched and presented the specific challenges faced there, like extreme weather and forest fires. This experience gave me the confidence to speak publicly and the determination to be a voice for change. I believe true climate justice happens when national stories are heard globally.

**Ruhuma Brigitha Joshy, Velloor. (Minister of Dominica)**

It was a wonderful experience to be a minister in the Parliament. I learned how such programs shape awareness and responsibility. Now I see climate justice as not just a concept but a calling—something I must stand up for now and in the future.

**Angel Anna Philip, Kulathupuzha. (Minister of Kenya)**

This was a proud and unforgettable moment in my life. I was honoured to be the Minister of Kenya, and it gave me the confidence to speak and act for something that matters. Climate justice, for me, means being the voice for those who suffer in silence and taking a stand for the Earth.

**Asha Susan George, Alleppey. (Parliament member of Amazon)**

Representing Brazil at CMS College, one of India's most respected institutions, was an honour I will always cherish. I gained knowledge, confidence, and motivation to be part of a global movement. I now sincerely believe climate justice is a spiritual and moral responsibility, not just a political issue.

**Meroma Ann Ronu, Kanjikuzhy (Parliament member, Bangladesh)**

This Parliament helped me open my eyes to the climate disasters occurring around the world. I'm thankful for the chance to be part of it. I believe we all have a role in this fight, and climate justice is about standing together for the survival of our Earth.

**Jeril Joseph Lalu, Kattanam. (Minster of Tuvalu)**

It was the most incredible opportunity I've ever had. The Parliament helped me understand the depth of the problems caused by climate change and gave me the courage to speak out. I

hope our voices influence global leaders and our resolutions find space in major platforms like COP30.

**Alan Mani Ipe, Olassa. (Minister of Greece)**

The Parliament was a bold declaration from a generation that refuses to remain silent. Our message was clear: the climate crisis is not a future problem—it is a present emergency that demands immediate and just action. I consider it a great blessing from God to have participated. It allowed me to voice the environmental issues of various countries to the world. I think this one of the most valuable opportunities of my life.

**Aaron Binu, Velloor. (Minister of Kerala)**

First, I thank Almighty God for the opportunity that came to me through our Diocesan Ecological Department. Personally, it helped boost my confidence and gave me the courage to speak on an international platform. This is the hour to raise our voices against ecological imbalance caused by human greed. May God bless us to protect nature.

**Roshin Susan John.(Parliament Member of Mozambique)**

The Student Parliament session on Climate Justice was enlightening and well-structured, allowing students to engage in meaningful dialogue on one of the most critical global issues. I was particularly impressed with how the discussions explored climate change's disproportionate impact on marginalised communities and the vital role of youth. It empowered me to think globally and act locally.

**Anbin David Koshy. (Ambassador of India)**

The program was inspiring and structured, offering meaningful space for youth to voice environmental concerns and sharpen advocacy skills. It laid a robust foundation for fostering genuine climate leadership among students.

**Kezia Mariam Thomas, South-Pampady.(Parliament Member of Kenya)**

This was a golden opportunity for me. I thank God for being able to participate in the International Student Parliament for Climate Justice. Representing Kenya, I learned about the environmental challenges in different parts of the world. This experience taught me that protecting nature is our responsibility. Environment Day should not just be a celebration—we must fight for our planet. I thank the CSI Ecology Department and all who supported us in this mission.

**Rinnah Elizabeth Sam, Mallappally(Parliament Member of Iraq)**

It was a wonderful experience to speak for Iraq and its dying rivers at the historic CMS College Great Hall. The training sessions gave me confidence and purpose. I now have a deeper understanding of the environmental crisis and the need to be a voice for justice, especially for vulnerable ecosystems.

**Dhaya & Dhiya Olessa. (Parliament Members from Dominica and Alaska)**

We were happy to represent Dominica and Alaska in this Parliament. Through this Parliament,

we learned about the global impact of climate change and how to communicate it. We now understand climate justice is about raising our voices and taking action for the Earth's future.

**Asiaya K. Reji, Niranam.(Parliament member of Madagascar)**

Raising my voice for Madagascar was a decisive moment in my life. I now understand that living in this world isn't just about existing—it's about doing something meaningful. I am proud that I could speak for people suffering from climate change. Climate justice, to me, is about ensuring dignity and fairness for all.

**Jacob Vinu Mathew, Machukadu.(Parliament Member of Mali)**

Representing Mali was both an honour and a wake-up call. Listening to the stories from other countries made me realize how serious the situation is. I've started making changes; our Sunday School has begun using cloth bags. Climate justice means living in awareness, taking action, and inspiring others.

**Hannah Thankam Shaiju, Korakkala.(Parliament Member of Greenland)**

Representing Greenland in the Parliament was my most meaningful experience as a student. I learned about climate impacts in different parts of the world and how to present them effectively. This event changed the way I think about my responsibility. I now see climate justice as a mission that I must live out and share with others.

**Angela Achamma Suresh, Ponkunnam.(Parliament Member of Australia)**

This was more than just a program for me—it was a transformation. I began as someone afraid to speak, and now I feel strong, confident, and passionate about the Earth. I've fallen in love with nature through this journey. I believe climate justice starts with awareness, boldness, and compassion.

**Jewel K Rachel, Erikadu.(Parliament Member of Greece)**

Representing Greece was a novel and insightful experience. I learned about the climate crisis in developed countries and understood the importance of speaking up even when afraid. I now dream of being a warrior for climate justice and believe God has a purpose in that path.

**Christo Saji Mathew, Mallappally.(Parliament Member of Kerala)**

Representing Kerala in this Parliament was one of the most inspiring moments of my life. Speaking in the Great Hall gave me a sense of purpose. I gained confidence, wisdom, and a dream for a better world. Climate justice, to me, means giving voice to those who suffer and acting with courage and hope.

**Raina David, Omalloor.(Parliament Member of Tuvalu)**

This program was a rare and valuable experience. The training and interactions inspired me deeply, and watching others motivated me to do my best. I now see climate justice as a cause worth dedicating our time, talent, and voice to.

**Aron Joe Vinod, Kanjikuzhy.(Minister of Bangladesh)**

Being part of this Parliament has made a big difference in my life. It wasn't just a performance—I learned how to act on what I spoke. I now believe that climate justice begins with personal commitment, and I want to inspire others to take it seriously too.

**Chinnu Aby, Kanjikuzhy.(Minister of Madagascar)**

I was proud to represent Madagascar at the Parliament held in CMS College. This was my

happiest experience, and I'm grateful for the chance. I learned that even young people can lead the way. I now see climate justice as something we must all fight for with unity and commitment.

**Jeslyn Daisy Joji, Kumbanad.(Minister of California)**

This Parliament helped me understand the seriousness of climate change worldwide. It also taught me teamwork, communication, and commitment. I now view climate justice as a shared responsibility that each of us must uphold, starting right where we are.

**Milcah Anna Moses, Chakkimangalam.(Minister of Sundarbans)**

For the first time in my life, I spoke in English on stage without any mistakes—and that's because of the training I received through this program. I used to be shy and silent, but now I have confidence and a sense of purpose. I spoke for climate justice and now I want to live for it.

**Shervin Shibu Bai, Chunakara.(Minister of Amazon)**

I see this as one of the greatest blessings in my life. Participating in the Parliament made me very happy, especially being selected as the minister of Mali. The whole program was well-organized and conducted with great order and meaning. It gave me the confidence to contribute to a cause that affects our planet deeply. I now understand that youth voices can make a big difference in the journey toward climate justice.

**Abiya Joy, Pallipad (Minister of Alaska)**

Participating in the Parliament as the minister of Alaska gave me the opportunity to understand the global dimensions of the climate crisis. I became more aware of the environmental problems faced across the world and how they connect to justice and equity. This experience helped me grow in awareness and responsibility.

**Bislin Thankam Baiju, Cheppadu (Minister of Iraq)**

As the minister of Iraq, I was able to advocate for urgent international cooperation on critical issues like transboundary water management, climate adaptation funding, and the recognition of internal climate refugees. This role taught me that justice must flow even where rivers no longer can, and that climate justice requires immediate and bold action across borders.

**Jaquelyn Elizabeth Joji, Kumbanad.(Ambassador of Bhutan)**

Being part of this Parliament helped me grow not only in knowledge but also in confidence. I learned a lot about climate justice and about myself. This experience transformed me. I feel motivated to fight for our environment and keep learning and growing in this mission.

**Alvina Aju, Neelampara(Parlliament Member of Sundarbans)**

Representing the Sundarbans as a Parliament Mentor was a deeply meaningful and transformative experience. The Parliament created a space where diverse voices came together with a unity of purpose to advocate for climate justice. I realised that climate change is not merely an environmental concern, but a profound issue of justice that impacts vulnerable communities the most. This understanding deepened my commitment to ecological issues and broadened my worldview. The event sharpened my communication and leadership skills. It

taught me how to represent climate-vulnerable regions with responsibility and advocacy. Engaging with participants from different backgrounds helped me recognise the power of collective action and collaboration. This experience affirmed that climate justice must be approached with ethical, social, and spiritual reflection. Young people are vital in transforming perspectives and leading movements rooted in sustainability and justice.

**Ashna Anna Thomas, Punnackadu.**(Speaker of the Parliament)

This Parliament was an unforgettable experience for me. As the Speaker of the Parliament, I learned how to coordinate and manage an international forum clearly and confidently. I gained deeper insight into climate issues, built meaningful friendships, and grew personally. The painful stories, especially from developing countries, opened my eyes to the urgent need for change. Developed countries must transform their development paradigms to prioritize justice and sustainability. The lessons I learned here will stay with me always. To me, climate justice means empowering young people to become the change our world desperately needs.

### **Conclusion**

These testimonies reveal the transformation that took place in the minds and hearts of our students. What began as a training program became a prophetic mission. These young leaders have not only found their voice—they have committed to using it for the healing of the Earth. The Church of South India can be proud of nurturing such bold disciples for climate justice. May their voices echo far and wide, stirring the consciences of nations.

*Compiled by: Prof. Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackadu, Director of the Ecological Concerns CSI MKD.*