

A Declaration of International Non-Violent Rebellion Against the World's Governments for Criminal Inaction on the Ecological Crisis

April 2019

The Situation

The powers that be are out of time. Thirty years ago the UN and the world's scientists made crystal clear that the human race was heading for catastrophe if carbon emissions were not cut drastically. Three decades on and emissions have risen by 60% and are still rising. It is the greatest abject failure in the history of humanity. Vulnerable communities have long suffered under the fossil fuel economy, and now humanity as a whole faces civilizational collapse within decades, the death of billions of people, and the extinction of millions of species, including possibly our own – everyone gone forever.

As we face a future of possible extinction, we must also respond to a present climate genocide. Climate change and environmental racism are already killing hundreds of thousands in vulnerable communities each year through wars, hurricanes, famine, refugee crises and heat waves. Species are going extinct as fast as when an asteroid hit our planet 65 million years ago, wiping out the dinosaurs and 75% of life on Earth. We hold our governments responsible.

Change to avert the worst of the disaster is still technically and economically possible. It involves creating a world which is less frenetic and more beautiful; making the necessary changes will also create jobs. This is an emergency situation – action is urgent.

There is no greater crime than to fail to respond to the ecological crisis at scale. We need a wartime-speed mobilisation and a just transition to race to zero greenhouse gas emissions and to take carbon out of the atmosphere in order to restore a safe climate. The mainstream climate movements continue to ask politely for gradual policy tweaks. It's time to recognize that this approach has failed. We need to take power into our own hands. Only mass global civil resistance can create the changes which are now essential to our survival. Every person has both the right, and the duty, to fight for humanity and all life. The time has come to tell the truth and to act on that truth.

We are therefore declaring an International Extinction Rebellion for April 15th, 2019.

The Aims and Demands

We aim to wake our societies up to the unprecedented, existential threat we face, to create a groundswell of support for emergency climate mobilization, and to initiate the mobilization as fast as possible.

We aim to place this question into the front of the minds of people across the world: Why are we allowing our rulers to send us to an early grave? Do we want to live or not? If we do not respond, do we deserve to live?

All groups and networks that join the rebellion will agree to demand three key aims from their national governments:

1. **That the Government must tell the truth about how deadly our situation is, it must reverse all policies not in alignment with that position and must work alongside the media to communicate the urgency for change including what individuals and communities need to do.**
2. **Greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors are reduced to net zero by 2025 and ecological overshoot is reversed through a massive emergency mobilization and a just transition on the scale of World War Two. The new goals of society must be to rapidly restore a safer, cooler climate and to provide maximum protection for all people and species, especially the most vulnerable.**
3. **That regional, national and international assemblies based upon more robust forms of participatory democracy * are created to work out how the above two aims will be brought about in their particular contexts, prioritizing the needs of people most affected by the ecological crisis and that the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) is followed.**

All participating groups and networks will agree to these three key demands and may add more specific demands which respond to national, regional, and local circumstances.

The Plan

All groups and networks joining the International Extinction Rebellion will agree to these two essential points:

1. **To maintain nonviolent discipline both externally and internally.** To be respectful to opponents in order to win over many who will need to defect to our side if we are to be successful. To organise in an open democratic manner respecting the right of all participants, in all their diversity, to be treated with respect.
2. **To coordinate our efforts** so that we act together with the same basic aims (see above) at the same time. This will involve mass civil disobedience in our countries' capitals. The date of the rebellion is the 15th of April 2019. Inasmuch as we are not successful we will organise a second larger rebellion at a later date.

Decentralisation and Diversity

Beyond these essential red lines, we enthusiastically encourage national and regional autonomy to reflect the beautiful diversity of all our cultures – our arts, religions, and politics. We encourage networking between participating movements to learn best practice so we can grow together in our effectiveness and bring joy through engaging in this momentous task fate has provided for us.

Those of us that live in free and powerful societies act together with those that cannot participate and use our position to support vulnerable communities across the world in the battle for our survival.

Regenerative Culture

The necessary changes mean a more beautiful planet and better mental and physical health. Life will change for all of us – either we choose to preserve the good parts and let go of the parts that aren't serving us, or society will collapse in a way that destroys the things we love.

We highly recommend that organizers create a regenerative culture working group, who is tasked with caring for the mental, emotional, and cultural needs of the group. We recognize in this time of collapse and danger, community support and fellowship are of the utmost importance.

We are called to heroism in this hour of gravest consequence. We have an opportunity to fight for all humanity and all life on earth. We have everything to lose and a new world to gain.

Further details can be read in our [organisational documents](#) and in our [principals and values](#).

*One example of this is **Sortition**. Sortition means that participants of the assemblies are selected randomly so that they reflect the diversity of ordinary members of society and cannot be interfered with by anti-democratic forces as is the case in elections.

Get in touch with **XR-International@protonmail.com** for more information and to join our international calls.

This is substantially the international declaration though we recognise that some minor edits will need to be made as it is taken forward.