

Sturgeon slated for linking COP26 and Indy

NICOLA Sturgeon has been accused of allowing her "obsession" with independence to become a distraction at COP26.

The First Minister came under fire after promoting Scotland as a "nation in waiting" in newspaper adverts aimed at world leaders at the event.

They also described Scotland as "not yet an independent nation".

Opposition parties said they struck the wrong tone and urged the SNP to withdraw them.

The adverts, which featured Ms Sturgeon's picture and signature, appeared just a day after she urged politicians to "put eggs aside over the next few days".

They said: "A nation is waiting welcomes the nations of the world.

"We're busy creating a greener, fairer, sustainable Scotland. While not yet an independent nation, we're more than ready and able to play our part on the global stage at COP26."

The adverts were paid for by the SNP, not the Scottish Government.

Tory MSP Donald Cameron said: "This advert from the SNP is disappointing but very predictable.

"Even when world leaders are in Glasgow to focus on the future of the planet, the first instinct of the SNP is to push their divisive independence obsession."

Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Alex Cole-Hamilton added: "At a time when the world is coming together with the mission of solving the biggest problem humanity has ever faced, the SNP are obsessed with independence and just can't leave it at the door.

"This advert is a distraction and divisive. It should be withdrawn."

An SNP spokesperson said: "The SNP is proud to be delivering global leadership on tackling the climate emergency.

"We'll leave others to snipe, we're 100 per cent focused on creating a greener and fairer Scotland and more sustainable planet."

Women of faith hand statement to prince

WOMEN faith leaders from the Religions for Peace Global Women of Faith Network yesterday issued a joint statement calling on governments and corporations to fulfill the "common mission of protecting our planet".

The statement has been published by Religions for Peace, the world's largest interreligious movement, as the climate change summit gets under way in Glasgow.

Professor Azza Karam, Secretary General of Religions for Peace, said that "women of faith getting together to advocate for and to serve the needs of our environment is a turning point for our planet".

The 48 women signatories represent various faiths in Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mexico, Peru, Uganda, Malawi, Indonesia, Lebanon, Japan and Thailand.

It states: "If you hear our voices and support our work together with consistent commitment and integrity, we would have a planet of unfettered beauty."

The statement was presented to Prince Charles by Ravinder Kaur Nijjar from Glasgow, chair of the Religions for

'Let this be the moment

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his eldest son William. I could not be more proud of them.

"In the coming days, the world has the chance to join in the shared objective of creating a safer, stabler future for our planet and for the planet on which we depend.

"None of us underestimates the challenges ahead: but history has shown that when nations come together in common cause, there is always room for hope."

"Disturbing her audience, she said that over 70 years she had come to understand a little of what made world leaders "special".

She said: "It has sometimes been observed that what leaders do for their people today is government and politics. But what they do for the people of tomorrow – that is statesmanship.

"I, for one, hope that this conference will be one of those rare occasions where everyone will have the chance to rise above the politics of the moment, and achieve true statesmanship."

"It is the hope of many that the legacy of this summit – written in history books yet to be printed – will describe you as the leaders who did not pass up the opportunity; and that you answered the call of those future generations.

"That you led this conference as a community of nations with a determination, a desire, and a plan, to address the impact of climate change; and to recognise that the time for words has now moved to the time for action.

"Of course, the benefits of such actions will not be theirs today: they will enjoy for all of us here today: we none of us will live forever. But we are doing this not for ourselves but for our children and our children's children, and those who will follow in their footsteps."

The positive tone was in contrast to much of the opening day's proceedings, which had concentrated on the dire consequences of failing to act in time to suppress carbon emissions, even as evidence of failure accumulates, and political squeamishness about making the radical changes to everyday life that would be required for success.

The 2015 Paris Agreement committed nations to limit global warming to 2C above pre-industrial levels, with an ambition to work towards 1.5 degrees.

But individual plans drawn up by countries on how to deliver that change in practice, as they stand, would see global temperatures soar well above the target point.

In one of the starkest speeches, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told delegates in Glasgow that the world's "addiction to fossil fuels is pushing humanity to the brink".

Pointing to melting glaciers, more extreme weather events, sea level rise and overheating oceans, he warned: "We are digging our own graves."

He said that a flurry of recent pledges by nations to cut emissions "might give the impression that we are on track to turn things around" but insisted "this is an illusion".

He said: "Even if the recent pledges were clear and credible – and there are serious questions about some of them – we are still careening towards climate catastrophe."

"We are still heading for climate disaster. Young people know it. Every country sees it. Small island developing states – and other vulnerable ones – live it. For them, failure is not an option.



Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin arrives for the COP26 summit

Failure is a death sentence." US President Joe Biden told the summit that climate change now posed an existential threat to mankind, and said: "We answer history's call!"

He stressed there was "no more time to hang back or sit on the fence or argue among ourselves", and action by his administration would "demonstrate to the world that the US is not only back at the table but will hopefully lead by the power of our example."

Mr Biden said: "This is the challenge of our collective lifetimes, an existential threat to human existence as we know it. And every day we delay, the cost of inaction increases."

"So let this be the moment that we answer history's call, here in Glasgow.

"Let this be the start of a decade of transformative action that preserves our planet and raises the quality of life for people everywhere. We can do this. We just have to make a choice to do it. So let's get to work."

The President, who has tried to restore America's place in the climate fight after Donald Trump retreated from it, insisted climate change was not a "hypothetical threat".

He said: "Glasgow must be the kick-off of a decade of ambition and innovation to preserve our shared future. Climate change is already ravaging the world. It's not a hypothetical threat. It is destroying people's lives and livelihoods, and doing it every single day."

He said the US would aim to reduce its admissions by 50% to 52% below 2005 levels by 2030.

Boris Johnson said future generations would damn the current one if it failed.

He said: "We are now coming centre stage before a vast and uncountable audience of posterity and we must not fluff our lines or miss our cue.

"Because if we fail, they will not

forgive us – they will know that Glasgow was the historic turning point when history failed to turn.

"They will judge us with bitterness and with a resentment that eclipses any of the climate activists of today, and they will be right."

Borrowing a phrase from activist Greta Thunberg, he warned that the promises to limit global temperature rises under the Paris Agreement would be "nothing but blah blah blah" without the action to make them a reality.

It later emerged the Prime Minister will return from COP26 today by plane, not train. Downing Street defended his flight back to London on a private charter jet, saying it was due to "significant time restraints", adding the plane being used was carbon-efficient.

Speaking at a WWF event outside the main hall, Nicola Sturgeon said every leader at COP26 should be feeling "bloody uncomfortable" at the lack of action. Admitting the Scottish Government, like all others, had fallen short of its own carbon targets, she said the public should hold their leaders to account over their failings.

She said: "This summit should not feel comfortable for anybody in a position of leadership and responsibility.

"It should feel bloody uncomfortable, because nobody yet is doing enough and that's the reality."

She was speaking after meeting Ms Thunberg and Ugandan climate justice activist Vanessa Nakate.

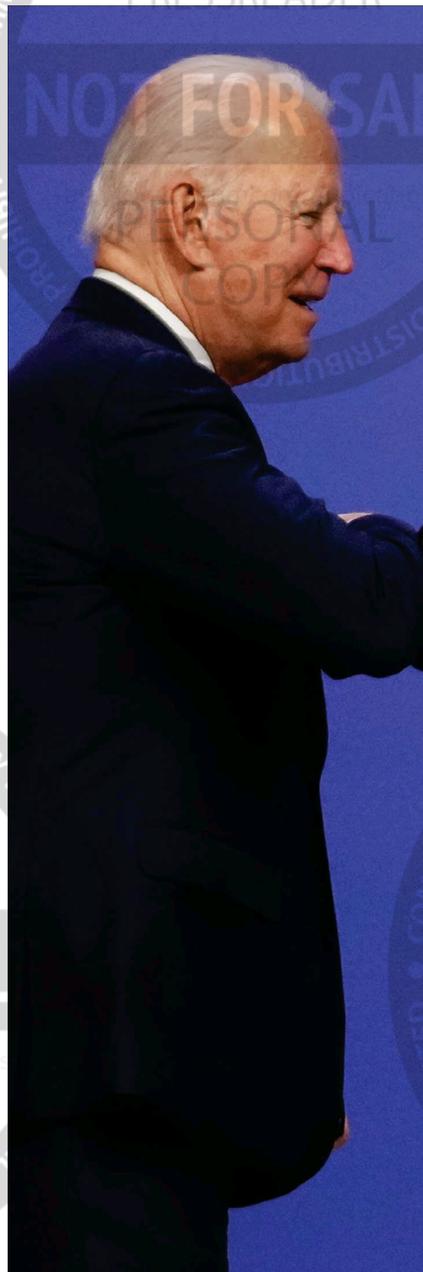
Sir David Attenborough warned leaders humanity was "already in trouble" from climate change.

Charting carbon emissions throughout human history, the broadcaster and naturalist said the stable weather systems that human progress depends on is "breaking".

But he said the motivation for tackling climate change should "not be fear, but hope".

He said: "It comes down to this. The people alive now or the generation to come will look at this conference and consider one thing – did that number stop rising and start to drop as a result of commitments made here. There's every reason to believe that the answer can be yes."

"If working apart, we are a force powerful enough to destabilise our planet, surely working together we are powerful enough to save it."



US President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Boris Johnson

"We are doing this not for ourselves but for our children and our children's children"

'I don't think it's acceptable to anyone to write off a country'

By Hannah Rodger

Westminster

Correspondent

WORLD leaders have been urged to try harder to stop climate change or risk destroying poorer developing countries.

In an emotive speech at COP26 yesterday, the Prime Minister of Barbados called on wealthier nations to step up to avoid a "death sentence" for their poorer neighbours.

Mia Mottley said countries like Barbados want to still be here in a century, but could not do so without the help of larger nations.

She also issued a veiled threat against those who chose not to come to the Glasgow climate summit, while at the same time pushing those leaders who did attend.

Her remarks were aimed at the leaders of two of the world's largest nations – China and Russia, who declined to come to the conference.

Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping, whose countries are some of the biggest polluters, have stayed at home.

success without commitments from them.

Representatives from Russia and China have come to the summit, however.

Ms Mottley said: "Our world, my friends, stands at a fork in the road, one no less significant than when the United Nations was formed in 1945."

"But then, the majority of our countries here did not exist – we exist now – and the difference is we want to exist 100 years from now.

"If our existence is to mean anything, then we must act in the interest of all of our people that are dependent on us."

"If we don't, we will allow the path of greed and selfishness to sow the seeds of our common destruction."

Developing nations, she said, were looking to bigger nations to take action, as they try desperately to mitigate the impacts of emissions they had not created.

"A temperature rise limit of 1.5C is what we need to stay alive" she explained, adding: "Two degrees is a death sentence for the people of Antigua and Barbuda. For



Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Mottley speaking during the opening ceremony for COP26

and Fiji, for the people of Kenya and Mozambique – and yes, for the people of Samoa and Barbados."

Ms Mottley, addressing other world leaders in her impassioned speech yesterday afternoon, said her country and its neighbours did "not want that dreaded death sentence and we've come here today to say: 'Trv

people, the climate army, the world, the planet, needs our action now – not next year, not in the next decade."

She also spoke out against those who had not come to Glasgow, urging leaders to "encircle" countries unwilling to take action on emissions.

"We can work with who is ready to go, because the train

ready, we need to continue to encircle and remind them that their people, not our people, but their citizens, need them to get on board as soon as possible."

Boris Johnson and US President Joe Biden were among those watching her speech on the second day of the COP26 conference. It came after a similar plea

who warned on Sunday that the islands could be gone within 50 years if nothing is done to address global warming.

Ms Stege, the Marshall Islands climate envoy, gave a series of interviews over the weekend in which she told of how the islands were already feeling the effects of climate change.

She said people were experiencing longer and more intense droughts on the islands combined with rising sea levels, and urged world leaders to take action before they disappear completely.

Ms Stege said she did not want her country to be "written off" and said: "I want to come out with an agreement that keeps 1.5C in reach."

"If we go past it, the future is really quite unimaginable.

"We are a nation that sits just two metres above sea level. We're looking at a sea level rise of 0.5 metres and we need to start thinking about how to raise land and buildings.

"I can't accept the outcome that the Marshall Islands will be history in 50 years. I don't think it's acceptable to

Peace UK Women of Faith Network and the Sikh representative on the Scottish Religious Leaders Forum.

prompting many to suggest the conference will not be a

the people of the Maldives, for the people of Dominica

harder, try harder.” She added: “Because our

is ready to leave. “Those who are not yet

from Marshall Islands representative Tina Stege,

anyone in this world to write off a country.”

