

Call for Young Journalists: Stronger Together climate workshops

Overview of British Council

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. Its purpose is to promote a friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and people worldwide; making a positive contribution to all the countries we work with; and making a lasting difference to the UK's security, prosperity and influence.

About the Stronger Together event

UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties, COP26 in Glasgow on 1 – 12 November 2021. The Italian Government are hosting the Pre-COP and [Youth4Climate](#) campaign and event (also known as the Youth-COP) in Italy from the 28 – 31 September. The Youth4Climate event is led by UNFCCC and will see 400 youth representatives from all over the world come together in Milan to discuss climate action and develop together a youth declaration which will be presented to the COP26 President, Alok Sharma. The British Council's programme and campaign, [The Climate Connection](#) is implemented in partnership with a diverse range of UK and overseas partners and networks designed to engage young people in climate action through arts and culture, education and the English language. It supports the UK and Italian joint ambition to make COP26 the most inclusive COP ever. Over the last six months, the British Council has crowdsourced the views of more than 8000 young people from diverse backgrounds across 23 countries to find out what their priorities are for climate action. Their views will be presented in a [global youth letter](#), 23 country youth letters and calls to action and a report due to be published in September 2021.

Supported by the British Embassy in Italy, the **Stronger Together policy dialogue event** will present an opportunity to strengthen the voices of young people engaging with the Climate Connection and other climate themed projects delivered across our Cultural Engagement portfolio and to show the power of collective network and international collaboration in support of the most important shared global challenges of our generation. We will aim to gather together youth from a range of fields (young activists, journalists, artists, entrepreneurs and researchers) to give their input on how they can contribute through their role to the urgent demands of climate change.

Young Journalists

British Council is excited to introduce an opportunity to join a ‘Young Journalists’ team as part of this project.

British Council is looking to select **15** talented young people involved in journalism. This could take any form such as video, radio, podcasts, photojournalism, communications or social media. We are looking for young people who are passionate about climate change and environmental issues to join a group of like-minded people with whom to share story ideas and develop your journalistic skills. You will be given the opportunity to capture stories and ideas about climate crisis issues globally, and support in placing stories in a range of media.

Participants will be given the opportunity to join a series of digital training workshops on solutions-based journalism, with a focus on climate issues, by the leading social enterprise magazine Pioneers Post (<https://www.pioneerspost.com/>). Young journalists will also be invited to engage with a range of youth events and special focus groups in the lead up to COP26. As young journalists you will help to capture and promote the progress of the project.

Participants will have subsequent opportunities to take part in editorial meetings and produce articles, video, podcasts, photo essays and other content for publication in media channels, Pioneers Post, British Council and project partners’ channels as well as get advice and training on pitching content to other media.

The project will support the young journalists to develop and publish fact-based reporting, analysis, radio reporting, photojournalism and video content about:

- the Stronger Together event, its participants, partners and scope.
- initiatives to address climate issues, in particular those driven by young people
- positive change to national and regional policies for climate change
- innovative, collaborative responses to local and global challenges, targeted by the Sustainable Development Goals

These opportunities will be offered to **15** young journalists, videographers, photojournalists, radio journalists or writers, aged 18-30, who are based in the UK and Europe.

The training and support will be delivered in English so young journalists will be expected to be fluent in English, both written and spoken.

To determine short-listed candidates, you might be required to take part in a phone or webinar interview. Following a successful application, you will be invited to attend a series of digital training workshops in late September covering:

- An introduction to the Stronger Together event – who are we all, what do we want to achieve, how are we going to do it, etc well as the overall objectives of the dissemination plan
- An introduction to the key themes around climate change, both global context and context in the different countries
- An exploration of the role of journalism in tackling the climate crisis
- Journalism versus campaigning: how to change the world while maintaining journalistic integrity
- An introduction to the specific approaches of ‘solutions journalism’, including examples of successful storytelling in different media contexts
- An introduction to Pioneers Post: mission and aims, audiences, different types of stories they cover – including the new ‘Earth Fixers’ series focusing on innovative approaches to climate solutions

The training will also cover the following areas of skills development (with some tailoring dependent on the level and experience of participants):

- How to conduct a successful media interview (general interviewing tips as well as how to ask the right questions)
- Latest techniques and opportunities in mobile, multimedia journalism
- How to get the most out of hard-worked stories, including: a/ pitching to other media – what does the media landscape look like for solutions / climate-focused journalists, where might they place their story and how do they can pitch it?
- Sharing and amplification – how to ensure that stories have the best reach, using social media, sharing with networks, etc

Additionally, they will engage in active learning and participate in storytelling opportunities with young people from across the project. Young journalists will also be invited to attend a policy dialogue event in the end of October. Throughout, they will be expected to post about their experiences on social media.

During or following the training, young journalists will be expected to produce **one to two** pieces of their choice (articles, photo essays, podcasts, short videos). Those pieces can include coverage of the project or broader issues, features or interviews inspired by the project and the climate change/COP26 agenda.

Please note this is a non-paid opportunity however there will be a £100 voucher for the production and posting of pieces on media.

Timeline

- 13 August – Call for Young Journalists is published
- 03 September at 23:59 EEST – Deadline for Submissions
- 06 to 08 September – Selection of the team

Draft Agenda

[There is some flexibility on days and times depending on availability of participants]:

Wednesday 22nd September:

Session 1: The role of journalism in the climate crisis (context, SDGs, etc)

Session 2: An introduction to solutions journalism - taking a 'solutions-led- approach to reporting on climate issues

Thursday 23rd September:

Session 3: Practical skills training: Video/mobile journalism

Friday 24th September:

Session 4: Practical skills training: Social media

Monday 27th September:

Session 5: How to leverage your skills - including practical tips on pitching and 'expert' input from specialist climate writers

Criteria

To apply you must:

- Be aged 18-30 (some flexibility for people slightly over 30)
- Be a resident of Europe or the UK
- Be able to confidently speak and write in English (a formal qualification is not required, just the ability to speak and write at this level)
- Demonstrate both your interest and experience in journalism (preferably through 2-3 examples of published articles, videos, blogs, podcasts or radio reports on a third-party site such as newspaper, magazine, radio programme, podcast or other media platform)
- Have a passion for journalism focused on climate issues
- Be available to attend the digital training by Pioneers Post in the end of September (the training will be delivered in the period 22-27 September)
- Be comfortable and imaginative in using social media to generate interest in your journalism or communications
- Have access to the internet and to the equipment necessary to produce articles, videos, podcasts or other content such as a computer, smart phone or other video or audio equipment

Desirable:

- Previous training in journalism and/or communications

PLEASE NOTE: if you are shortlisted as a Young Journalist you will be required to provide evidence of eligibility (identity, age, passport) The interview will be conducted in English.

Application

To apply, please send an e-mail to Eirini.Kareta@britishcouncil.org and Maria.Nomikou@britishcouncil.org including:

- A **short bio** (no more than 300words)
- Confirmation of **availability** for the afore-mentioned indicated dates
- The **media where you could post and disseminate** a piece (article, photo essay, podcast, short video) e.g. A medium where you are currently working/cooperating as a freelancer/ be an intern in, etc.

For further questions, you can contact Eirini Kareta Eirini.Kareta@britishcouncil.org and Maria Nomikou Maria.Nomikou@britishcouncil.org