



**LEEDS  
SANCTUARY**

## **The Sunflower Campaign 2022** **A campaign for Climate Justice by The Leeds Craftivists** **Session plan**

*You can run this session with groups from age 12. It will take between 1 hour and 1 ½ hours depending how much of the material you use and how long you leave people to craft and chat.*

### **Pre-session prep:**

- Choose how many crafts you want to offer from the options below
- Gather the required materials for the crafts you want to do
- Get lined paper, pens, envelopes (at least A5) and stamps (optional) for letter writing
- Print off discussion questions for each table (or have on a big screen)
- Print off template letters for each person
- Review content for the session and plan which bits you will use

### **Craft options**

In this session, people will be making sunflowers. You can either make one big sunflower collaboratively, or each make your own individual sunflowers to send off (or both).

#### **Collaborative sunflower**

To prepare for the large collaborative sunflower:

1. Cut out a circle for the centre
2. Cut out the petals
3. Cut out the stem
4. Set up three tables – one for each of the three sections.
5. At each station have collage, paint, colouring pens of the appropriate colour and invite people to create
6. Invite people to move around the stations as they choose to create the separate parts
7. Stick it all together
8. Display it somewhere prominent in your building or neighbourhood
9. Send a photograph to a local politician to show them you care about climate justice

#### **Individual sunflowers**

We are suggesting five different craft options; please choose as many as is feasible to you and the options that are the best fit with your group.

#### **Watercolours**

Invite people to paint a sunflower.

You will need:

- Watercolour paints
- Watercolour paper
- Brushes



### **Rubbish collage:**

Invite people to bring things that would otherwise end up in the bin or the recycling from home ahead of the session; perhaps suggesting anything yellow, black or green in particular.

You will need to provide:

- Plain card
- Glue
- Scissors
- A few things that anyone can grab e.g. card, magazines etc.

### **Cross-Stitch**

We have found a simple Cross-Stitch pattern that we hope most people may be able to attempt. Some people may have things to bring from home if they enjoy crafts, so invite them to bring the below list. Always better to use what people have rather than buy new.

You will need to provide:

- Needles
- Cross stitch fabric
- Yellow, orange, green and black thread.

### **Knitting**

If your group includes some competent knitters, we have found this knitting pattern:

[https://www.lovecrafts.com/en-us/p/large-sunflower-knitting-pattern-by-ltmarshall?utm\\_medium=affiliate&a\\_aid=4e5c1756](https://www.lovecrafts.com/en-us/p/large-sunflower-knitting-pattern-by-ltmarshall?utm_medium=affiliate&a_aid=4e5c1756)

Again, your group may well have wool and needles at home, but perhaps worth having some with you for anyone who doesn't.

You will need to provide:

- Yellow, green and black wool
- Knitting needles

### **Sunflower Template**

Use the template (this is a separate document). Print out as many as you will need and invite people to:

1. Cut out the petals
2. Glue and shape them
3. Stick the petals together in a ring (repeating for other size petals if wanted)
4. Cover the back circle in glue and place the petal rings over the top
5. Decorate the front circle (if decorating), before gluing and pressing to the front of the flower, securing all the petal rings
6. Attach a green garden stake to the back with Sellotape
7. Display!



## Session content

### Introduction

Start the session by introducing yourself and inviting everyone to introduce themselves either to the whole group, or to those around them depending on group size.

We suggest starting with a moment of quiet; you could play our “Opening Meditation” track which is available on our website.

### Setting the scene

Today we are looking at Climate Justice through the lens of Craftivism.

*From the options below, please use the resources which will work best for introducing the topic and activity to your group.*

### To watch:

*Please do watch these videos in advance of your session to ensure you select the most appropriate video for your group.*

Video about Craftivism: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nSbel9B3xRc>

Videos about Climate Justice:

From Oxfam <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qAHp1fPEDk>

From The National Youth Council of Ireland <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEnpPC8plkE>

From Earthrise [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jY2eWJ-U\\_VQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jY2eWJ-U_VQ)

### To read to the group:

#### Why a sunflower?

The sunflower has become a symbol of Climate Justice. This is because they are hopeful – they follow the Sun each day, and are a beautiful bright colour. They are incredibly resilient plants; able to withstand high salinity and drought, requiring little fertiliser. It’s seeds are edible and as they grow in so many eco-systems, they can provide food around the world.<sup>i</sup> They grow strong and tall, with their stem withstanding many weathers. Sunflowers remove toxins from the soil around them, for example they were used to clean the soil after Chernobyl.<sup>ii</sup>

The Sunflower is a symbol of sustainability, adaptability and most importantly hope. Therefore, they are our symbol for this campaign!

### The campaign ask

You may remember that at COP26, one of the key areas for discussion was loss and damage reparation for countries feeling the impacts of Climate Change most severely. Western countries have been the main contributors to Climate Change with our high carbon lifestyles but it is often the poorest nations that feel the worst impacts of our changing global climate. This is an injustice. Therefore, our ask in the Sunflower campaign is that the UK government keep the promises it made and live up to the leadership role it took in creating space to hear stories from around the world.

### Get crafting



Invite people to start making their sunflowers or the parts of the big sunflower and distribute the discussion questions.

Discussion questions:

- How has Climate Change impacted your life?
- What is your emotional response to thinking about Climate Change globally?
- What brings you the most anxiety about Climate Change?
- What brings you the most hope?

A separate document detailing these questions is also available.

### **Letter writing**

You may have time for this in the session but you may also give the letters to people to complete at home.

The template can be found as a separate document.

### **Finishing the session**

- Invite people to share what they have made
- Invite people to share any highlights from their discussion
- Make sure people have everything they need to finish it off at home.
- Give out the sunflower seeds and slip of instructions to each person
- Share the below reflection or prayer

### **Closing reflection**

In our creativity today we have used imagination, we have built connections.

We are thankful for this time of reflection and community.

We hold in our thoughts all those impacted by Climate Change around the world today.

May we each have hope greater than our anxiety as we look to the future.

As we take our sunflower seed out with us, we hold it as a sign of hope that change is possible even in the most broken of situations.

As we watch it grow we will hold onto this vision that a fairer, greener world is possible.

### **Closing prayer**

God of justice, we grieve with you for the loss and damage felt in your beautiful world.

We hold up to you all those impacted by the devastating impacts of climate change today, particularly climate refugees; those who have lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods; those who live in anxiety for what tomorrow will bring.

We thank you for our relative privilege and pray we will use it for good.

Grant us hope beyond anxiety and that we see sparks of you working for change in the world.

Amen.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://qz.com/1227435/one-plant-has-the-ability-to-help-us-understand-climate-change/>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://justseeds.org/the-sunflower-seed/>