

COP26 and indigenous people

“For me COP26 was an opportunity to come together with other young people and work together to demand action from world leaders and hold them accountable for their decisions that impact global scale. I went to COP with an organization of indigenous people from the Peruvian Amazon and getting involved with different indigenous leaders and hearing their testimonies really gave me a deeper understanding of what the climate crisis actually is. For them, it’s no longer an abstract problem, it can be broken in steps that each one of us can take in our local communities to make a tangible difference in the world.

We really need to change our relationship with the living world. Act differently. The climate crisis is an invitation to action, an opportunity to heal and transform our systems. We won’t find the answers or solutions of the same people that fuelled the crisis in the first place.

If there’s something that I learned during the two weeks is that we have to start listening to the indigenous people because they’re the ones who are enmeshed with the fabric of life, they’re the ones who can speak the language of the earth. They’ve been protecting our planet for so long that it’s time for the rest of us to also take action and put them in the centre of the conversation because what we have left is worth fighting for.”

Daniela León