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INTRODUCTION

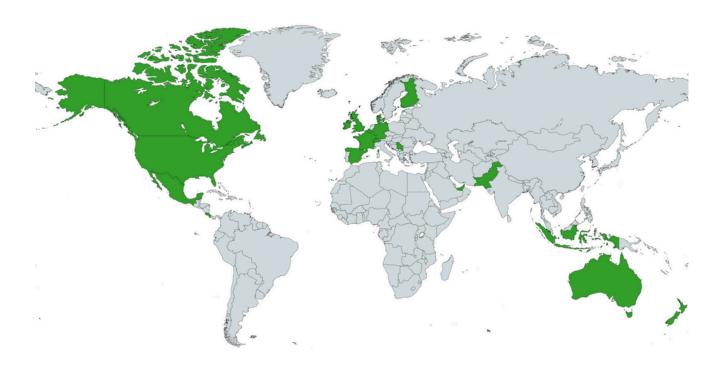
It is difficult to put into words how energising the past 13 months have been for the WCCA. Our organisation was founded in October 2023, emerging from a collective desire to create a safe space for working class people and those from working class backgrounds, as relatively few exist within environmental circles. At the same time we recognised the need for greater engagement between working class communities and broader climate circles such as middle class-led groups, academics, policy makers and charities. What initially started as an idea for a membership-based organisation supporting working class people to campaign, has since grown into something that also strives to connect the working class with broader networks and build solidarity through shared action.

By the end of 2024 our membership base had grown to 22 countries across the Global North and Global South, reflecting a shared commitment to elevating working class voices and instilling a sense of pride in the knowledge that our diverse backgrounds has instilled in us, who we are, and where we have come from. We have also had the pleasure of working with many external grassroots groups and organisations across the world, and we are grateful to the kindness and hospitality shown by the Wellbeing Economy Alliance, the Climate Justice Coalition and the Climate Coalition, of which the WCCA are members of.

Myself and the team would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to every single person who has supported us and spread the WCCA's message. We remain committed to pushing these dialogues and actions forward, rooted in the voices of those whose viewpoints have historically gone unheard in the climate movement and climate politics. It has been incredible to see this vision take shape, and to see just how powerful a collective vision for a better future can be, even in the face of adversity.

Emma River-Roberts, Founder and Director

WHERE IS THE WCCA?



It has been incredibly exciting to see how far the WCCA's message spread over the course of 2023 and 2024. Our membership base has expanded to 22 countries across the Global North and Global South in the following countries:

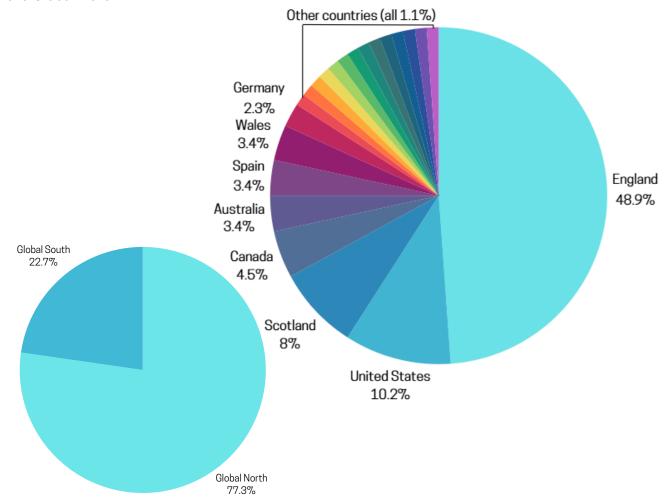
- Australia
- Belgium
- Canada
- Costa Rica
- Denmark
- England
- Lingiani
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Indonesia
- Ireland

- Mexico
- · New Zealand
- · Northern Ireland
- Pakistan
- Scotland
- Serbia
- COLDIC
- Spain
- Switzerland
- Wales
- United Arab Emirates
- United States

We do not aim to diversify our membership base as a tick-boxing exercise or as a tokenistic gesture. Rather, we see it as important because the WCCA is an international organisation that strives to amplify the voices of working class people and those from working class backgrounds across the globe. It is vital that we remain vocally allied to those who live in different parts of the world than us, however it is also vital that others are granted space to speak on behalf of themselves - not just for democratic reasons, but because it also teaches us about the lived experiences and struggles of others elsewhere.

We would like to stress that no matter where someone is based we get truly excited each and every time someone joins the WCCA (and we always will!) We work incredibly hard to make new people feel welcome in our spaces, and we are thrilled that so many are interested enough in the work that we do, that they also want to be a part of it.

By country our largest concentration of members are based in England. This was to be expected as we are currently operating on an incredibly limited budget with few resources to put towards outreach. This has led us to rely on word-of-mouth as our primary way of spreading the WCCA's presence. As a result, our membership base is mostly comprised of people from the Global North.





Our members sit at the very heart of the WCCA and their feedback broadly shapes what areas we focus on and what activities we do. It has been great to meet so many of them at the inperson events we attended and helped to organise. We have strived to create a variety of ways that our members can engage with us – both within England where the organisation is based and further afield.

We were able to offer our members paid work and a space to express themselves by contributing to the upcoming Just Transition themed edition of the Class Work Project's Lumpen journal.

Throughout 2023-2024 we have lent our advice about working class rights, campaigning and organising to our members (we do not provide advice about financial or legal matters). We also helped our members to expand their networks by connecting them with external groups – facilitating broader skill sharing and camaraderie.

The WCCA also created members-only communication channels:

- · A remote monthly chat/drop-in session
- ·An internal messaging group

Our chats/drop-in sessions received strong attendance – to accommodate for people's different time zones and schedules we decided to hold them bi-weekly, but placed them on pause altogether towards the end of 2024 so that we could revise how best to engage with our members: it became apparent that we lacked the resources to facilitate these sessions owing to a reliance on team voluntary work to carry out these tasks. We are planning to restart these remote chats in 2025 but in a different format.



The WCCA will always be transparent about our funding sources and will only ever accept funding and <u>in-kind funding</u> from groups, organisations and institutions who share the same values as us. One of our revenue sources is from <u>externally commissioned work</u> which helps to sustain the WCCA's activities and support our staff. Between 2023-2024 we received payment for commissioned work from:









We received in-kind funding from:





WHAT DID WE DO?

It is no understatement to say that our first 13 months was exceptionally busy! We have rounded up our highlights below, and would like to thank everyone who has helped to amplify working class voices.

Ecosocialism Conference



We helped to organise and promote a one-day ecosocialism conference that was held in December 2023 in London. Attended by 100 people in-person and 100 online from various countries, we heard from a diverse range of speakers including trade unionists, academics, activists and students.

Discussions ranged from the impact that war has on climate change, mutual aid, community-based organising, the necessity of degrowth and many more vital topics. The event was covered by Green New Deal Media, who interviewed trade unionist Clara Paillard and academic Max Ajl for their YouTube channel which you can watch <u>here</u>.

We Make Tomorrow Conference

We supported and attended the one-day We Make Tomorrow conference in London, organised by the Climate Justice Coalition and War on Want in January 2024. Through a series of discussions and workshops, the day centred around building workers' power amidst the climate crisis.



Photo Credit: Climate Justice Coalition

It was inspiring to see so many people from different backgrounds in attendance. Other supporters of the conference included Extinction Rebellion, Fuel Poverty Action and UNISON.

Public Speaking Engagements

Advocacy will always form a core part of the WCCA's work. Since our inception our team has spoken in London, Belfast, New York, Glasgow and Sheffield to a diverse range of audiences reaching academics, activists, students, trade unionists, community organisers, concerned citizens, policy makers and many more people from different backgrounds.

We also appeared on podcasts, interviews and panel discussions remotely and for audiences across the Global North and Global South; ranging from smaller activist groups to larger organisations such as Climate Outreach and the European Environmental Bureau.

Not all of these talks were recorded, but for those that were, we have compiled them into a YouTube playlist that you can view here. You can also read the transcript from Minhaj's talk at an ecosocialism conference in December 2024 on our website (below is a short quote from his inspiring talk):

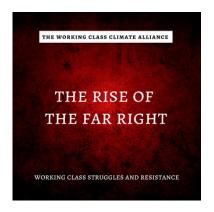


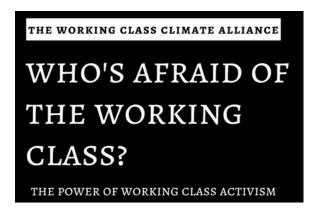
Photo Credit: Fearless Cities South Yorkshire

Leaders and movements did not just dismantle colonial regimes: they challenged the systems of thought and structures of domination that upheld them. In doing so, they cultivated new visions of justice, freedom, and dignity that continue to resonate today.

Panel Discussions

We piloted a series of three remote panel discussions - attracting 65 attendees across all three, which were recorded for our <u>YouTube channel</u>. These panels focused on two key areas for us over 2023-2024; bridging divides between the working and middle class, working class power in environmentalism, and the rise of the far right. Invited guests included academics and activists from across the Global North and Global South.





Public speaking and discussions has been a key way for broader audiences to learn about the work that we do, what working class needs are and how best to advocate for them. Someone felt so inspired by our discussions that they decided to start an Employee Resource Group for working class people and those from working class backgrounds in their workplace, as a step towards unionising in the future.

Far Right Day School

Thanks to generous funding from Space4 and the Raymond Williams Foundation we were able to host a day school about the rise of the far right in November 2024 (in London). This was the first event we hosted by ourselves and an experiment in engaging with the general public: from listening to people from all backgrounds, it became apparent that many did not actively engage in discussions at events out of fear of 'saying the wrong thing'. People also reported that they often struggled to make new connections at large events, because they felt overwhelmed being in a room with hundreds of strangers.





Taking this feedback into consideration we scaled the day back: hosting the event in a medium-sized room with 25 attendees and three panel discussions, we asked the speakers to briefly introduce their topic by speaking for 10-15 minutes, and then opened up the floor for attendees to contribute to the discussion - either through a question to the speakers or a general commentary. By setting aside most of the time in each panel to contributions from attendees, we were able to cultivate a dynamic, engaging and enthusiastic environment.



Our three panel discussions provided the historical context about the rise of the far right, barriers to movement building, and practical strategies for organising:

- **1.** The decline of trade unions' power and the rise of far-right ideologies.
- **2.** A lack of coherent strategies amongst the left, and the exclusion of under-represented voices in movement building.
- 3. Strategies for on-the-ground mobilising.

Our panel speakers brought with them a diverse range of skills and knowledge - we were lucky to hear from War on Want, GMB Union, Unite the Union, Modern Money Lab, A*CR and Future of Good.













To encourage networking we invited attendees and speakers to bring leaflets/pamphlets about their group or organisation, and about any ongoing activities to share with others and encourage people to get involved in new events in their area. Lunch and evening drinks were kindly provided by Space4, which created an informal setting for attendees to get to know each other.



The day school led to many of our attendees making connections with others outside of their existing networks (for example, a trade unionist and charity worker who left with plans to collaborate with each other in the future). It also led to Space4 hosting an evening panel discussion in conjunction with Studio Sana (a communications agency).

Workshops

We trained approximately 50 people through our workshops which were held in England and Wales. These sessions focused on the foundational knowledge relating to class, classism and climate justice, as well as a range of practical skills for effective organising and building coalitions between groups - both within activism and in the workplace more broadly.

All of our workshops blend foundational knowledge and practical skills together, so that attendees can leave with tangible ideas for creating change in their groups and communities. We were delighted to have had 50 people attend these sessions. Some of the future plans our workshop attendees have shared with us are:

- Running a workshop in their community about climate change and what the locals can do to adapt to its impacts.
- · Create immersive theatre events about climate justice.
- Establish storytelling events about climate change and climate justice.
- Share the hall they rent for free with activists to gather in for meetings and/or events.
- Get involved with the local foodbank to help distribute resources to the wider community.



We are heading into 2025 with a lot to be excited about. We have secured some core funding for 2025 and 2026 from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, which will enable us to expand our on-the-ground presence to help trade unions and working class communities campaign for progressive causes both within and outside of London, England. To-date, financial constraints have limited where we can undertake our in-person activities, most of which have been in London. We will of course continue to support communities there – however we will also be expanding our presence and supporting others elsewhere in the United Kingdom. This funding will also allow us to financially support the WCCA team as at present, we are wholly staffed by volunteers.

The WCCA is also planning to expand our presence outside of the United Kingdom – as a small organisation that is registered in England this poses some logistical and financial challenges. We currently have some plans for Europe in the pipeline.

We are in the process of collaborating with the Class Work Project to co-edit a Just Transition themed edition of their Lumpen journal, which is due for publication in January 2025. Several of our members are contributing to this edition, making this our first team-member collaboration.

It is important that we continue to engage and communicate with people in an accessible manner – not just by ensuring that our style of communication is free from unnecessary jargon, but by also continuing to make our events free to WCCA members and the broader public: paid-for tickets will still be available for some of our events, alongside free tickets for those otherwise unable to meet the cost. This will be reflected in the political education workshops we will be launching in 2025.

In consultation with our members our core areas of focus for 2025-2026 will be:

- 1. Communicating Climate Change
- 2. The Far Right
- 3. The Politics of Representation
- 4. Health

We have other collaborations in the pipeline that we cannot wait to share with you all – watch this space, and see you next year!

THE
WORKING CLASS
CLIMATE
ALLIANCE

"IF RADICAL VISIONS FOR THE
FUTURE FAIL TO CENTRE CLASS
POLITICS AT THEIR CORE, THEY
ARE NOT VISIONS WORTH
PURSUING."