

11 NOVEMBER 2021

Religious groups COP26 discussion

Leaders of Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Sikh and Hindu eco-movements joined forces to discuss the COP26 conference interfaith response to climate change this week.

COP26: Faith Communities' Response to the Climate Emergency was hosted by EcoSynagogue in partnership with the Board of Deputies.

EcoSynagogue's Rabbi Mark Goldsmith chaired the event.

Tanya Sakhnovich of EcoSynagogue explained that the organisation aimed to provide "a mainstream Jewish voice in the climate emergency conversation".

BoD newly appointed chief executive Michael Wegier added, "One of the newest projects we have is this wonderful partnership with EcoSynagogue. It has been an absolute privilege to hear about the extraordinary work you are doing and are leading on behalf of this planet."

Helen Stephens of Eco Church launched a scheme to protect land across Britain to restore 75,000 acres of land back to nature.

"By regenerating different types of ecosystem such as forests and wetlands we can absorb more CO2 from the atmosphere," she said. "My hope for COP26 is that leaders will be bold and have the courage to make the commitments that are needed."

Prubhiyot Singh (ECOSikhUK), Mark Bryant (UFEES/EcoIslam), Gopal Patel (Bhumi Global) and Stephen Curran (Eco-Congregation Scotland) offered notable observations.