Sustaining All Life & United to End Racism

at COP28 UAE 2023 • 4–10 December 2023

All events are in Thematic Arena 2, pavilion number TA2-200

Sustaining All Life (SAL) and **United to End Racism (UER)** are international grassroots organizations working to end the climate emergency within the context of ending all divisions among people. At COP28, SAL/UER will present many interactive workshops and forums that address barriers to resolving the climate emergency. Our events will also show participants how to exchange effective listening to free themselves from the emotional and mental harm resulting from oppression and other hurtful experiences—harm that can interfere with thinking about and responding effectively to the climate crisis.

Workshops

Workshops share our perspective on current aspects of the climate emergency and offer tools of engaged listening to free ourselves and others from emotional hurts that interfere with our thinking and functioning. Our workshops are interactive, giving participants the chance to share their experiences and be listened to as well as listen to others.

Healing the Trauma of the Climate Crisis

(English, interpreted into Arabic)

Monday, 4 December, 1:30–3 PM

ANGER. FEAR. DISCOURAGEMENT. GRIEF. People are experiencing trauma and deep emotions because of the climate crisis. Opportunities to face and heal this trauma are not widely available. This workshop will support participants to heal trauma induced by awareness of the climate crisis and the existential threat that it poses for *humans* and *all life* on planet *Earth*.

Eliminating the Effects of Racism on Our Activism

(English, interpreted into Arabic)

Tuesday , 5 December, 1:30–3 PM

Racism has had a deeply damaging and divisive effect on everyone, separating us from each other. Unless we address it, it is replicated in any solutions we develop. Healing the effects of racism is a necessary step in creating a strong, diverse, and united movement that can sustain all life and restore the environment. We do this by addressing the injustices from racism and forming deep relationships across the divisions caused by racism. In this workshop we will look at how we have been hurt by racism and tools we can use to heal from it.

All events are followed by an optional one hour listening circle

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Sustaining All Life

United to End Racism

English

Français

Workshops, *continued*

Listening Circles: A Powerful Tool for Climate Activists

Friday, 8 December, 1:30–3 PM

(English, interpreted into Arabic)

This workshop will offer a crash course in facilitating listening circles. Listening circles are an adaptable way to quickly clarify our thinking when we need to reach agreement fast. They can also provide much-needed space for people to share and release the emotions (fear, anger, grief, and so on) we experience when facing the climate emergency. In the long term, listening circles can help us better understand painful experiences that still linger in our minds and continue to affect us. They can help bridge divisions and build stronger connections.

War and Climate Justice

Saturday, 9 December, 1:30–3 PM

(English, interpreted into Arabic)

Ending wars and militarism is critical to reducing the effects of the climate crisis. War is a tool of oppression and genocide. It upholds the dominant culture and is used to take control of land and resources. Modern warfare has caused unprecedented environmental damage and massive loss of life.

Loss and Damage: Global Relationships Must Change

Sunday, 10 December, 1:30–3 PM

(English, interpreted into Arabic)

This workshop will highlight the human behavior patterns that underlie the Global North's accumulation of the world's financial resources. It will suggest some strategies for assisting the Global North to accept its historical responsibility and use its wealth to work together with the Global South to address the climate crisis.

Forum

Activists of all ages from around the world will speak about the impact of climate change on their people, their work, and stories of hope and courage in activism.

Colonization & Racism in Africa: Relevance to the Climate Emergency

Wednesday, 6 December, 1:30–3 PM

(English, interpreted into Arabic)

Africa and her people have been made extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change because of colonization and racism. However, it is possible to heal from the anger, fear, discouragement, and grief, and strengthen one's resolve to combat and end the emergency. In this forum, Africans share how they have personally experienced racism and colonialism as well as their resolve, commitment, courage, and hope.

Listening Circles

Listening Circles

daily 3:30–4:30 PM

(English, interpreted into Arabic)

Listening circles based on shared experiences give people a chance to be listened to about feelings connected to climate change. Having the chance to share feelings of grief, fear, anger, discouragement, and hope in a mutually supportive group can refresh and give us new ideas for action.

Class

Introduction to the Tools of Sustaining All Life

Wednesday, 6 December, 11:30 AM–12:30 PM

Saturday, 9 December, 11:30 AM–12:30 PM

(English, interpreted into Arabic)

We will offer an in-depth look at tools that have helped people address emotional barriers to effective climate organizing--sharing details of our theory and providing opportunities to practice our listening tools in pairs and small groups. We will demonstrate how using these tools can help us address common struggles experienced by climate activists and organizers working to build the movement needed to tackle the climate emergency.

Join us daily at 4:30 PM for some light-hearted fun and stress relief in a Group Game.

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