**Unified Goal on the Climate**

Humans are on an unsustainable path that puts at risk most of Earth’s life forms, including ourselves. This path was created and is supported by destructive irrational policies carried out by the governments, institutions, and industries of our societies, for example, the fossil fuel industries. These policies must be completely transformed, beginning now.

To transform these policies, we must end the many forms of oppression our governments, institutions, and industries use to create and enforce the policies. We share a vision of a world free from oppression, in which people work cooperatively, in a respectful and harmonious relationship with the Earth, to ensure that everybody’s real needs are met. To make this vision a reality, we must significantly reduce consumption—especially by the globally dominant and more industrialized nations—by ending the irrational patterns of consumption our societies promote.

**We in the RC Community commit ourselves to encouraging and supporting every one of us to act against and discharge any distress that might keep us from playing an active role, as large and radical as necessary, to resolve the climate emergency. For most of us, this will involve uniting with others to publicly oppose irrational policies and visibly support rational solutions.**

The oppression of any group of people is unjust, inhumane, destructive, and against the interests of all people. Because our societies all use oppression to maintain themselves, we need to end all oppression to free humans from the grip of irrationality and end the threat to our climate.

To solve the climate crisis, we must transform the current economic system—with its focus on profits for a small number of people, its endless pursuit of growth, and its exploitation of both nature and humans—into a system that respects and sustains all life and ecosystems. To end the climate emergency, we must simultaneously work to end all oppressions and all forms of exploitation.

The societies that have exploited people and the Earth are the result of irrational behavior coming from humans’ vulnerability to distress recordings. The thoughtless, patterned desperation for more, without considering its damaging effects, has brought us to our current crisis. The distresses behind the irrational personal and institutional policies must be discharged for us to create policies that sustain our Earth’s ecosystems.

They must eventually be discharged fully, but we cannot wait for that to happen before we take large actions. The climate is deteriorating too rapidly, and the changes needed to address the crisis must begin now.

Working simultaneously on oppression and the climate emergency requires that we support and follow the leadership of Indigenous, Global Majority, and other oppressed groups—working together with individuals and organizations to build a united force that welcomes everyone to end the climate emergency.

In particular, we must continue the work of ending all oppressions, and understanding the ways in which they intersect:

**• Ending racism**

We cannot end the climate crisis without ending racism. Racism and patterns of domination, colonization, exploitation, and extraction have created the conditions for the climate crisis. Also, Indigenous and Global Majority[[1]](#footnote-1) communities and nations have been, and are being, exposed to far greater climate and other environmental danger than are the vast majority of white-dominated communities and nations.

The RC Community commits to creating opportunities for everyone to do the following:

a. Implement the Strategies for Goal 1: Ending Racism (see <www. rc.org/publication/racism/implement\_goal\_one>)

b. More fully understand the connection between racism and the climate crisis

c. Discharge on the patterns and practices of white domination that have enabled, and continue to enable, rich countries to get rich at the expense of Indigenous and Global Majority communities and our Earth

d. Discharge feelings of powerlessness and any other feelings that would stop us from acting to end institutional and systemic racism and white supremacy culture

**• Ending genocide and honoring Indigenous sovereignty**

Protecting the Earth is inherent to Indigenous and Tribal sovereignty and to sustaining all forms of life. The RC Community commits to reading, discharging, and instituting proactively the Goal on Ending Genocide and Honoring Indigenous Sovereignty.

**• Ending classism**

The RC Community commits to building connections with, learning from, and increasing the participation of the sector of the working class engaged in the direct production of goods and services.

These workers are currently underrepresented in our Community, yet they represent the majority of the world’s population.

Their leadership is key to making the changes and building the solidarity needed to end the climate crisis.

**• Ending sexism and male domination**

Women and girls are among the most powerful forces in ending climate devastation. They hold vital knowledge as caregivers, land and resource stewards, and leaders of communities. They offer their societies long- practiced, sustainable, community-based solutions.

The exploitation of women’s reproductive work, caregiving, and agricultural and factory work (along with poverty) leaves women more exposed to climate change and other environmental shocks. Also, their lack of material resources with which to adapt to and mitigate climate impacts puts them at greater risk of sexual exploitation and male violence.

Females of all ages are significant members of the working class and of Indigenous and Global Majority peoples. We recognize the intersection of all their oppressions and the work needed to end their internalized oppression.

The RC Community commits to ending the divisions among women and to building a united sisterhood—while also welcoming and working with women’s brothers to end the exploitation of all women and girls and the environment.

• **Ending the oppression of young people**

Young people are at the forefront of facing the present and future effects of the climate crisis.

The RC Community commits to creating opportunities for young

people to discharge the hurts of young people’s oppression and for adults to discharge the oppressor distresses that keep them from fully backing young people.

We support the leadership of young people. We also support adults to stay close and connected as they face the climate crisis together with young people.

The RC Community commits to discharging the early hurts from young people’s oppression that discourage us from taking action to transform society. People of all ages can unite and play large roles in ending the climate crisis.

**• Ending antisemitism**

The RC Community commits to doing the work to understand antisemitism, its significant rise worldwide, and the divisive role it plays in weakening liberation work (particularly the fight against racism).

We commit to discharging and acting against all antisemitic patterns that have been installed on us.

We will take an active role to ensure that antisemitism is addressed in all liberation programs and to end the use of antisemitism to disrupt liberation movements, and the climate movement.

**• Ending Gay oppression**

Historically and in the present, the oppression of LGBTQ+ people has been, and is being, used to divide and derail liberation movements and the climate movement.

The RC Community commits to understanding and ending Gay oppression, discharging and acting against all oppressions that target LGBTQ+ communities, and taking an active role in ending the use of LGBTQ+ oppression to disrupt liberation movements and the climate movement.

**• Ending the oppression of disabled people**

Disabled people are disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis. They are more likely to be displaced, injured, or killed. They are often the poorest of the poor.

Disabled people also model the cooperation and connection essential to addressing the climate crisis and assuring the future of humanity.

The RC Community commits to ending the oppression of disabled people by discharging the hurts that devalue disabled people’s lives and limit our view of what it is to be human. We also commit to building connections with and learning from disabled people.

**• Ending all other mistreatments**

The RC Community commits to ending all other mistreatments of groups of people in our societies. We will work to become stronger allies to each other and to remove any distresses, including oppressor distresses, that get in the way of our working together in a unified way.

Go to <www.rc.org/publication/environment/coe\_draft\_policy> to see the Draft Program on Care of the Environment and articles that explain its relationship with all oppressions.

1. Indigenous peoples and the peoples of Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, the Caribbean, and Latin America, and those descended from them, are over eighty percent of the global population. These people also occupy most of the global land mass.

   Using the term “Indigenous and Global Majority (IGM)” for these people acknowledges their majority status in the world and interrupts how the dominant (U.S. and European) culture assigns them a minority status.

   Many Indigenous and Global Majority people living in dominant-culture countries have been assimilated into the dominant culture—by force, in order to survive, in seeking a better life for themselves and their families, or in pursuing the economic, political, or other inclusion of their communities. Calling these people “Indigenous and Global Majority” contradicts the assimilation. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)