



ONLINE GLOBAL Panel Discussion

August 13th



In celebration of International Youth Day, Youth for Global Health & Social Justice is organizing a youth panel discussion on climate change, focusing on clean water and sanitation.

Climate change is exacerbating both water scarcity and water-related hazards (such as floods and droughts), as rising temperatures disrupt precipitation patterns and the entire water cycle. Water and climate change are inextricably linked. Climate change affects the world's water in complex ways.

Human activities, such as the use of fossil fuels, deforestation, and unsustainable agriculture contribute to climate change, which decreases the availability of nutritious food and clean water and destroys ecosystems and secure living environments. This leads to malnutrition, ill health, and migration, rendering youth particularly vulnerable. At the same time, youth constitute much of the population in many countries and have an increasingly strong social and environmental awareness, which has the power to transform our societies towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient future.

Each panel will consist of three participants and a moderator. Each panel discussion will last 60 minutes.

Discussion topics:

1. **Climate Justice** - Climate justice is a concept that addresses the just division, fair sharing, and equitable distribution of the burdens of climate change and its mitigation and responsibilities to deal with climate change.
2. **Climate Change and Alternative Energy Sources** - Renewable energy sources – which are available in abundance all around us, provided by the sun, wind, water, waste, and heat from the Earth – are replenished by nature and emit little to no greenhouse gases or pollutants into the air.
3. **Water and Sanitation Related Diseases** - Contaminated water and poor sanitation are linked to the transmission of diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, dysentery, hepatitis A, typhoid, and polio. Absent, inadequate, or inappropriately managed water and sanitation services expose individuals to preventable health risks.
4. **Water, Poverty, and Gender** - Without safely managed water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, women and girls are more vulnerable to abuse, attack, and ill health, affecting their ability to study, work and live with dignity.
5. **Building Climate Resilience** - Building climate resilience involves all actors (governments, communities, and businesses) having the capacity to anticipate climate risks and hazards, absorb shocks and stresses, and reshape and transform development pathways in the longer term.