





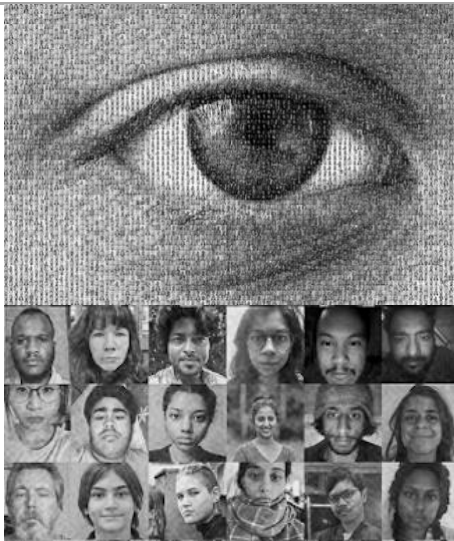
We Are Watching
GDIF 2021

		<p>We Are Watching is a touring artwork by Swiss artist Dan Acher.</p> <p>An artist uses art to help change the way we think about things.</p>
		<p>Dan's artworks help us to feel like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are close to the people and nature that surround us. - We must take care of each other and of our planet. Earth is everybody's home.
 		<p>Dan's other work includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Borealis. These are colourful lights in the sky at night. You can see these at GDIF this year. - The Inclusive City Project. This is about being kind and welcoming to each other so we can all feel included. <p>Find out more: https://happycitylab.com/en/</p>



About We Are Watching

- The flag is the size of a 10-storey building.
- It flies from a huge crane.
- The big eye on the flag is made up of many smaller pictures of people's faces.



Who took part?

Thousands of people from 190 countries sent in their pictures to be part of the flag.

This is almost every country in the world.

We say the flag shows 'the eyes of the world'.







How it moves

Although the flag is huge it is not heavy.

It waves and billows in the wind. This reminds us of oceans and air currents.

The eye changes expression as the wind drops or picks up. It can look hopeful, angry or sad.

 <p>It's time to join forces to save the world, and we need powerful leaders to act with us.</p> <p>JENNEL TIMOR-LESTE</p>	<p>What is the message?</p> <p>The flag is put up at big climate conferences. World leaders meet there to talk about how to stop hurting our planet.</p> <p>The flag shows ordinary people watching the leaders. They are asking leaders to protect the Earth from global warming.</p>
  	<p>The climate crisis</p> <p>Global warming has happened because industries and governments have been burning too many fuels that come from the earth. Like coal, oil and natural gas.</p> <p>They have also cut down too many forests to make room for farming. But we need trees to stop world temperatures going up.</p> <p>When the Earth gets too hot, glaciers melt and sea levels rise. All over the world there are big floods, storms, droughts and wildfires. This is bad for humans and animals and plants.</p> <p>Unfortunately, governments and industries don't always agree that there is a problem or how to fix it.</p> <p>The We Are Watching flag asks leaders to make people stop doing things that lead to global warming.</p>



Where has the flag travelled?

Every year, world leaders gather at the COP United Nations Climate Conferences to talk about how to fix global warming.

The first place the flag flew was at the COP25 conference in Madrid, Spain.

The flag was also carried in Madrid by some of the 500,000 people that were marching in the street to say we need to better protect our planet.

People underneath the flag could look up and touch the faces of other people from all around the world.


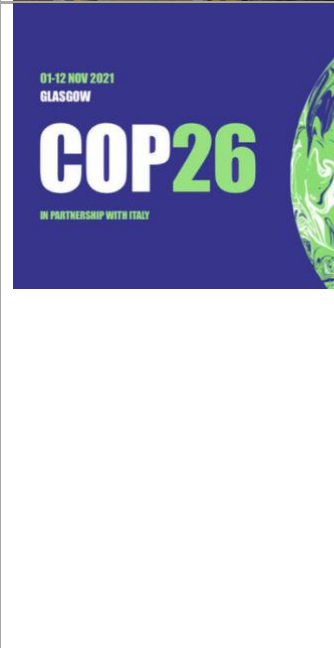
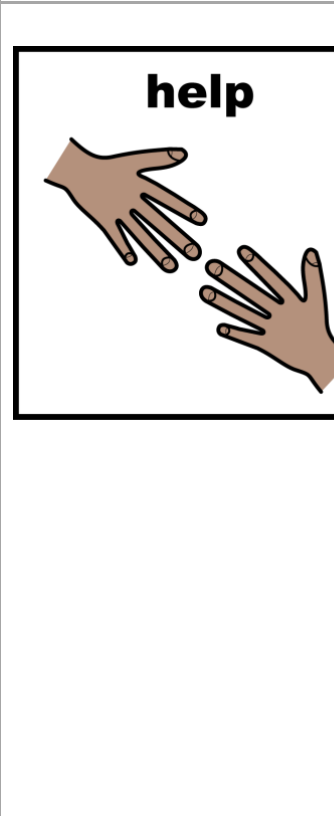


There are lots of television news stations at the COP conferences because important things are decided there. Global warming and climate change affects every country.



We Are Watching has also flown in Geneva, Switzerland. This is the home of the United Nations and Human Rights Council.

Climate change threatens human rights like the right to life, water, food, health and housing.

	<p>Because it is so big and flies so high, the flag can be seen from many places around the city. You cannot miss it.</p>
	<p>What's next?</p> <p>The COP26 is the next big meeting where decision-makers will say how they promise to help slow global warming.</p> <p>This year it is Britain's turn to host the COP26. This will be held in Glasgow in November.</p> <p>After Greenwich the flag will fly in other UK cities on its way to Glasgow.</p>
	<p>Participative artworks</p> <p>Like many of Dan's projects, this is a participative project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many people needed to take part in order to make it happen. - When you look at the flag you can think about everybody who sent in their photos and messages. - They are ordinary people of all ages and backgrounds from almost every country in the world. - Each person took part to show that they care about protecting our planet.



Website

The people on the flag took a selfie on their mobile phone through the We Are Watching website. If you go on the website and zoom in on the eye you can see their faces close up and read their messages.

You too can add your picture and it will become part of the big eye on the website.

When we print out new flags your face will be included 😊

If you want you can also send a short message to world leaders.

- About what you expect them to do about climate change.
- About how climate change makes you feel.



Social media

People who see the flag take photos of it and share them on social media with the hashtag [#WeAreWatching](#). You can do this too.

Sharing the message like this helps make it stronger so that it reaches the eyes and ears of decision makers.

	<p>It also helps other people see that climate change is an important issue and that we can all have our say about it.</p>
	<p>You can add your portrait and find out more about the project here:</p> <p>https://wearewatching.org/</p>