

PS 3.1

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

| BACKGROUND

Movement on climate change and health requires political leadership at local, national and global scale. Global polling shows both that there is solid support for climate action across countries, that health is high on the list of climate change concerns, and that health professionals are among the most trusted voices in society. To date, however, there has been insufficient progress through political governance on climate change and health at either global (notably UNFCCC, World Health Assembly), or national level in most countries.

This session will discuss where political progress has been made at international, national and local level. It will make the connection between formal political processes and social movements that are mobilizing health and other voices to push for positive change on climate change and health.

| OBJECTIVES

1. To identify entry points and positive experiences in using health as a positive argument for driving coherent political action on climate change, air pollution, biodiversity and health.
2. To develop a more effective connection of positive climate and health social movements into political and other formal governance processes.
3. Examine impactful strategies/ lessons that can be brought to climate change from other global political movements i.e women's movement, other health movements like HIV.
4. The political consequences of climate change on health



Panelist / Panelist

Rita Issa

Medical Doctor, Public Health Academic, and Activist

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Dr Rita Issa is a British-Lebanese primary care physician and PhD scholar researching loss due to climate change through the mental health concept of solastalgia. Rita's work on the climate crisis has taken many forms over the years, in a bid to 'find what works'. This has spanned academia - as research fellow in climate, migration and health at Lancet Migration; working through institutions - such as the British Medical Association and WHO; with NGOs - including MSF and aboard a Greenpeace ship; and through the media - as a regular contributor for the Independent, BBC, and Novara Media. Over the past decade, Rita has also spent considerable time building and growing social movements, including Doctors for Extinction Rebellion. She is a leading voice in healthcare worker activism in the UK, is editor of the upcoming book 'Health, Resistance and Activism' (Oxford University Press), and her contributions in this space have been recognised in the London Mayor's "Sustainable Public Sector Changemaker 2022".