

Hello – and thank you for having me here. My name is Sophie and I am a citizen of Clevedon – around a 15minute drive from the airport. I am a 27-year-old Zoologist working in fundraising for the nature conservation charity RSPB.

I have been overwhelmed learning about the climate and ecological crisis that we are now in the middle of. We are witnessing the sixth mass extinction of species and the first one that is attributed to the cause of human behaviour as discussed in UN IPCC reports. Species are not adapting quick enough to our rapid changing of their environment. It gives me huge grief and sadness to see that money paves the way in this world and those with power don't seem to care about what we loose as long as there is economic gain.

But this is a dangerous paradox as soon we will lose it all if we keep going on this dangerous trajectory. We are in code red for humanity. My generation and those below, even those above, can't understand how we have the science which is clear to say we are in an emergency, we have the technology and knowledge to get us out of this emergency and yet, we still are not seeing meaningful enough action proportionate to this emergency. What we are seeing is further airport expansion, further road networks being built, new oil expansion and new coal mines.

We are losing faith in the system and more and more people are suffering with eco-anxiety. As a young girl I suffered with asthma. We live in a world where we have illegal and toxic air. It's as if this does not mean anything to anyone as we continue with destructive practises rather than turning the tide. Making this decision to expand the airport will lead to death – whether it be from asthma or from increased natural disasters like floods or droughts or fires across the world as we have recently seen a surge of.

By giving permission for this airport expansion to go ahead right now you will be complicit in mass murder in my eyes and the eyes of many – the evidence is too stark and too clear and the counter arguments for expanding are mostly hypothetical. As if we need any more reason not to go ahead with the airport expansion, this is the year of COP26 being hosted in the UK and it is paramount for world progress that we set a strong example this year. If we expand Bristol airport, then other countries will think they can do what they like too and once again we hit a gridlock of no action being taken. Please make the right decision, I am terrified for my 2-year-old niece Layla and also to have kids of my own.