

## **Statement to Bristol Airport Expansion Enquiry**

My name is Viv Talbot and I work for a small charity working with disadvantaged communities in SW Bath. To be honest, I'm very nervous of public speaking and I have never before spoken at an event such as this. But I feel so passionately about the issue of airport expansion in the face of the climate crisis, that I feel driven to go well beyond my comfort zone in order to express my concerns

My parents were both refugees from Nazi Germany. My mother only managed to get here in the nick of time just a few weeks before the outbreak of war. Not everyone in my family was so lucky. Perhaps that's why I've grown up realising that survival is something we can't take for granted. My parents were lucky to find a safe refuge... but refugees from climate breakdown are unlikely to be so fortunate. And we may just find out that in the face of climate catastrophe there is no longer a safe space to escape to.

I'm not an expert and can't tell you any new scientific facts. But I do listen to the experts and believe they are the ones who are best qualified to guide us. The recent IPCC report couldn't have been clearer – emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities have already led to a 1.1 degree increase in global temperatures and unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to 1.5°C or even 2°C will be beyond reach. The report also projects that if atmospheric emissions continue at current rates, we are heading towards a rise in global temperatures of around 3 degrees.

The effects of just 1.1 degrees of global warming are already being seen- record-breaking heatwaves in Moscow & the Pacific Northwest, catastrophic wildfires in Greece, Oregon, Canada, devastating floods in Germany, Australia, New York, China, cyclones, hurricanes... climate breakdown is happening faster than most of us could have dreamt.

It's clear that unless we make huge and very rapid reductions in our carbon emissions, we will be faced with catastrophic and unimaginable consequences.

**BUSINESS AS USUAL IS SIMPLY NOT AN OPTION!**

Relying on, as yet unproven future technology to bail us out is taking a HUGE gamble with all of our futures. The stakes couldn't be higher.

In the face of the scale of the emergency we are facing, putting a halt to airport expansion seems like a very small sacrifice to make.

To sum up, my message is very simple.

**THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY IS REAL AND IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW! IF WE DON'T DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO CURTAIL OUR CARBON EMISSIONS WE SIMPLY WON'T SURVIVE!**

*Viv Talbot*