

HUMANIST CLIMATE ACTION
SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



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NO TO NEW OIL AND GAS!



Following a summer that has made the impacts of the climate crisis abundantly clear, HCA is gravely concerned that the new government is considering new oil and gas fields. We firmly believe this would be a step backwards in efforts to tackle the climate crisis and would also not result in lower domestic energy bills. If you would also like to see new drilling in the North Sea unequivocally rejected, we would urge you to write to your MP and ask them to call on their party leadership to uphold our climate commitments and obligations. We have updated our ['Write to your MP' template](#) on our website so you can do this in a matter of five minutes.

If you would like some more detailed information on why new drilling in the North Sea would be a bad idea, you can find [details here](#).

PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING



As we have mentioned in previous newsletters, HCA is keen for everyone to see the People's Emergency Briefing. Anyone can hold a screening ([details here](#)) and we know that some of you have already hosted one successfully. If you already have, we would love to hear about your event – how it went and how the film was received – so please do get in touch at climateaction@humanists.uk to let us know. HCA is also in the process of organising a joint screening and discussion with London Humanist Groups, so please look out for further information on this.

INTERVIEW WITH A HUMANIST



Lori Marriott interviews Alavari Jeevathol, Young Humanists Coordinator

Tell us a bit about yourself – how long have you been a humanist?

I first discovered humanism in 2016 and have been active in the movement since then. I now serve as a director and trustee of Humanists International. I also serve as coordinator of Young Humanists UK, as well as serving on the committees of Central London Humanists and South West London Humanists. I am a founding trustee and secretary of the National Multifaith Youth Centre in the UK. I was born in a fairly liberal Dravidian family in India and have never belonged to a religious faith, although I am highly interested in all the major world religions and belief systems, and how they shape their followers. Despite choosing to be atheist at a very early age, I was always encouraged to pay attention to the beliefs and practices of my neighbours, friends, colleagues, and wider relations. An informally humanistic and humanitarian upbringing, you might say.

My educational background is in neuroscience and my work is related to the applications of emotional intelligence and artificial intelligence in business operations. My studies and my occupation have nudged me towards a decidedly neuropsychological outlook on life.

How did you come to be interested in environmental concerns?

I fell in love with science, and with the idea of a precious and fragile "spaceship Earth" from my childhood — for example from listening to Carl Sagan and his soaring, enchanting, and inspiring public intellectualism. The foundations were thus laid for me to later develop a social justice and activist approach to safeguarding our civilisation, and to combine my love for the beauty of science with the sober responsibility to be stewards of our planetary home.

How do your humanist values lead you to want to take environmental action?

Essentially, for me humanism is a civilisation showcasing the best of humanity's evolved traits – morality, empathy, and rationality, for the betterment of all sentient beings. The natural world, quite apart from being intrinsically valuable in its own right, is also the key to sentience flourishing in our corner of the cosmos. I truly believe that activism is the rent we pay to live in this world we call home.

Do you think it is important for Humanist Climate Action to exist as a part of Humanists UK?

Absolutely. I feel it's the most important contribution we can make as humanists, as we do our part, alongside all the other faiths and beliefs, in the global movement to safeguard our ecosystem.

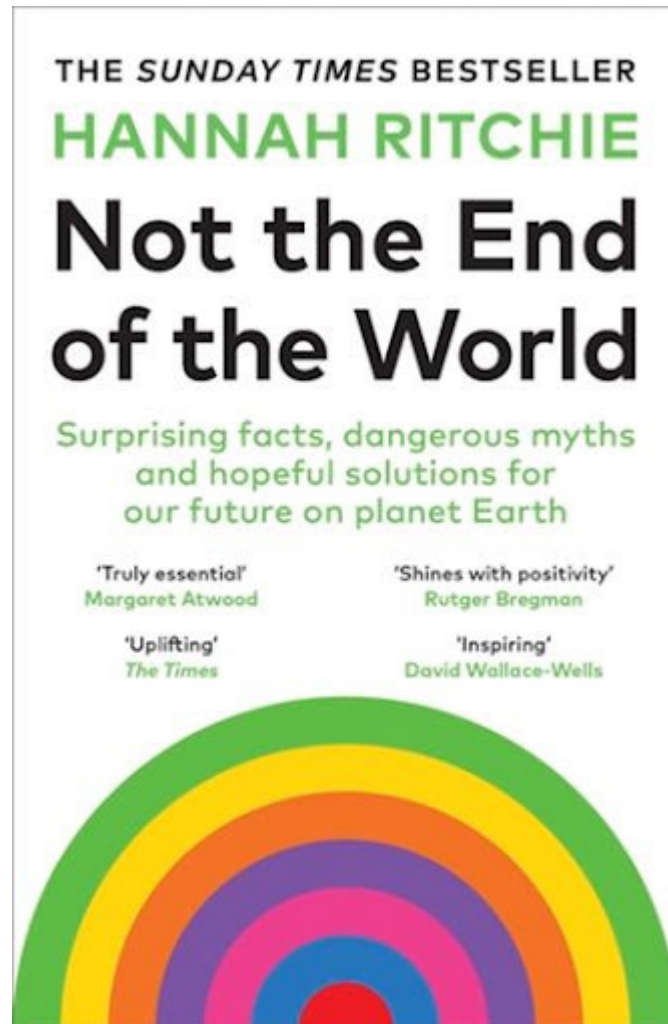
What's your biggest environmental concern?

Climate change and the related extinction of species.

What one thing would you encourage people to do to live a greener lifestyle?

Reduce meat consumption.

BOOK REVIEW



Not the End of the World: Surprising facts, dangerous myths and hopeful solutions for our future on planet Earth

Dr Hannah Ritchie

Penguin, 2024

ISBN: 9781529931242, 352 pages, paperback, £12.99

If, like me, you are feeling a quiet kind of jaded desperation at the state of the world, and in particular what feels like an ostrich-head-in-the-sand state of affairs, [give this book a try](#). The blurb describes the book as “radically hopeful”, which rang true on reading. In our world of overwhelm, cynicism and what seems like constant calamity, it does seem like a radical act to be hopeful.

Dr Hannah Ritchie covers a number of the big topics: sustainability, air pollution, climate change, deforestation, food, biodiversity loss, ocean plastics and overfishing, and examines where we really are according to the latest research. She argues that ‘doomsday thinking’ is damaging and counter-productive and argues for ‘urgent optimism’ (and action) instead. Dr Ritchie is no stranger to the data. A senior researcher at the University of Oxford, she spends much of her time as Deputy Editor at the online publication [Our World in Data](#) – a scientifically robust resource that HCA regularly uses. A combination of this background and skill in communicating make this book highly data-driven and a joy to read.

The focus on solving the problems and finding opportunities is also the follow-through you need to feel some actual hope. Her more recent book [Clearing the Air](#) promises to be at least equally informative with a Q&A format and answers to questions such as “Isn’t it too late already?” (no) and “Do we have enough land to go plant-based?” (yes). I will have also lined up some episodes of Dr Ritchie’s podcast, [Solving for Climate](#), for when the doubt creeps back in!

Lori Marriott

HCA Chair

YOUR FEEDBACK

We welcome feedback and responses to HCA newsletters. We aim to exemplify the humanist commitment to rational discussion and debate. You can contact us at climateaction@humanists.uk . All newsletters to date can be found on the [Humanist Climate Action section of the Humanists UK website](#). This may be useful if you want to forward to other people a link to the newsletter. We aim to produce a newsletter every two months.

As always, all signed contributions to the newsletter represent simply the views of the individual writers and are not necessarily endorsed by either Humanist Climate Action or Humanists UK.