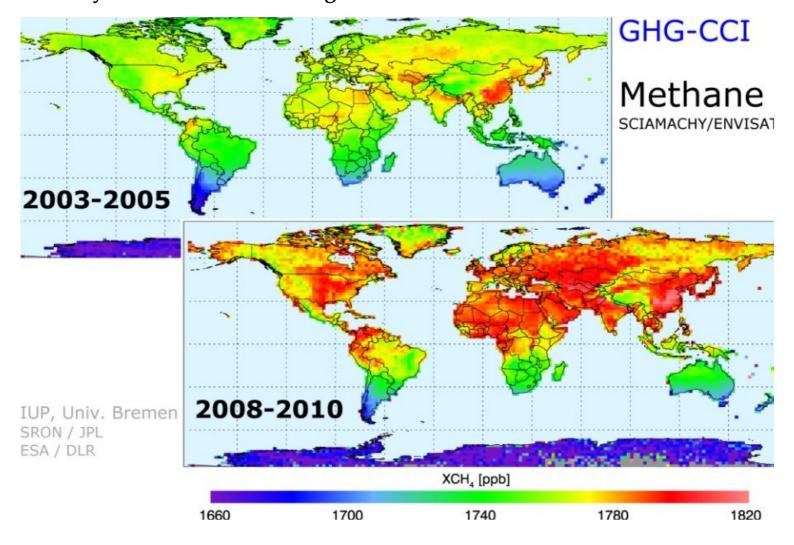


| | Political Economics | | Methane and Climate Change: The International Energy Agency Publishes Global Methane Emissions From the Oil and Gas Industry: The World Must Bring Down Methane Emissions | |



Il Monday: January 18: 2021 Il $\dot{\alpha}$. The International Energy Agency:IEA has published new data, analysis and policy advice on global methane emissions from the oil and gas industry today, Monday, 18. Methane emissions are the second largest cause of global warming. While methane tends to receive less attention than carbon dioxide:CO2, reducing methane emissions will be critical for avoiding the worst effects of climate change. The largest source of methane emissions from human activity is agriculture, responsible for around a quarter of the total, closely followed by the energy sector, which includes emissions from coal, oil, natural gas and bio-fuels.

The concentration of methane in the atmosphere is currently around two-and-a-half time greater than pre-industrial levels and is increasing steadily. This rise has important implications for climate change. Estimates of methane emissions are subject to a high degree of uncertainty but, the most recent comprehensive estimate, provided in the Global Methane Budget, suggests that annual global methane emissions are around 570 million tonnes:Mt. This includes emissions from natural sources, around, 40% of emissions and those, originating from human activity, the remaining 60%, known as anthropogenic emissions.

The Global Methane Budget synthesises results from top-down studies and bottom-up estimates to provide global figures for methane emissions from 2008 to 2017. The largest source of anthropogenic methane emissions is agriculture, responsible for around one quarter of emissions, closely followed by the energy sector, which includes emissions from coal, oil, natural gas and biofuels. This New Report, 'Driving Down Methane Leaks from the Oil and Gas Industry: A Regulatory Roadmap and Toolkit', examines cost-effective emissions reduction opportunities for the energy sector, particularly, in oil and gas operations. The roadmap will serve as a detailed 'how-to' guide for policy-makers and regulators, seeking to increase ambition on reducing methane emissions.

Methane has important implications for climate change, particularly, in the near term. Two key characteristics determine the impact of different greenhouse gases on the climate: the length of time they remain in the atmosphere and their ability to absorb energy. Methane has a much shorter atmospheric lifetime than CO2, around, 12 years compared with centuries for CO2 but, it is a much more potent greenhouse gas, absorbing much more energy while it exists in the atmosphere.

There are various ways to combine these factors to estimate the effect on global warming; the most common is the global warming potential:GWP. This can be used to express a tonne of a greenhouse-gas, emitted in CO2 equivalent terms, in order to provide a single measure of total greenhouse-gas emissions in CO2-eq. The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change:IPCC has indicated a GWP for methane between 84 and 87 when considering its impact over a 20-year timeframe:GWP20 and between 28 and 36 when considering its impact over a 100-year timeframe:GWP100. This means that one tonne of methane can be considered to be equivalent to 28 to 36 tonnes of CO2, if, looking at its impact over 100 years.

In addition to its climate impacts, methane, also, affects air quality because it is an ingredient in the formation of ground level or tropospheric ozone, a dangerous air pollutant. It is important to tackle all sources of methane emissions, arising from human activity but, there are reasons to focus on emissions from oil and gas operations. First, although, emissions, also, come from coal and bioenergy, oil and gas operations are likely the largest source of emissions from the energy sector.

Second, IEA analysis shows clear scope to reduce them cost-effectively. Unlike CO2, methane, the main component of natural gas, has commercial value: the additional methane, captured, can, often, be monetised directly and this is, typically, easier in the oil and gas sectors than elsewhere in the energy sector. This means that emissions reductions could result in economic savings or be carried out at low cost. IEA scenario projections, also, suggest that oil and, particularly, natural gas, will play important roles in the energy system for many years to come, even, under strong decarbonisation scenarios, such as, IEA's Sustainable Development Scenario.

Gas can play an important supporting role in energy transitions by replacing more polluting fuels; it, may, also, deliver services, that are difficult to provide cost-effectively with low-carbon alternatives, such as, peak winter heating, seasonal storage or high temperature heat for industry. However, fulfilling this role requires that adverse social and environmental impacts are minimised: immediate and major reductions in methane emissions are central to this.

Emissions come from a wide variety of sources along the oil and gas value chains, from conventional and unconventional production, from the collection and processing of gas, as well as, from its transmission and distribution to end-use consumers. Some emissions are accidental, for example, because of a faulty seal or leaking valve, while others are deliberate, often, carried out for safety reasons or due to the design of the facility or equipment. The World Energy Outlook has produced detailed estimates for methane emissions from oil and gas operations, which form the basis for the detailed data available in the Methane Tracker. IEA, also, developed first-of-a-kind global marginal methane abatement cost curves. These curves describe the reduction potentials, as well as, the costs and revenues of measures to mitigate methane emissions globally.

IEA estimates that it is technically possible to avoid around three quarters of today's methane emissions from global oil and gas operations. Moreover, a significant share of these could be avoided at no net cost, as the cost of the abatement measure is less than the market value of the additional gas, that is captured. Natural gas prices around the world affect the share of global emissions, that can be abated at no net cost; this share is, typically, around 40-50%, although, the plunge in natural gas prices in 2020, temporarily, brought this down to around 10%.

If, a significant share of current emissions can be mitigated, using measures, that will pay for themselves from the methane recovered, why have these not already been widely adopted? There are three primary categories of obstacles, that serve to limit the uptake of mitigation measures: a lack of complete information regarding the problem, including, a lack of awareness about emission levels or the cost-effectiveness of abatement; inadequate infrastructure or

underdeveloped:saturated local markets, that make it difficult to match abated gas to a productive use; and misaligned investment incentives, arising from competition for capital within companies with a variety of investment opportunities, insufficiently quick payback periods or the possibility of split incentives, where the owner of the equipment does not directly benefit from reducing leaks or the owner of the gas doesn't see its full value.

The benefit to overcoming these hurdles would be enormous. Industry and other stake-holders recognise that policy and regulation can play a key role in addressing barriers to action and can align incentives to encourage companies to act. This 2021 update to the Methane Tracker includes detailed estimates for 2020, that incorporate new data for oil and gas supply as well as the latest evidence from the scientific literature and measurement campaigns. For the first time, this year's Methane Tracker incorporates data on large-scale methane leaks detected by satellite, due to a collaboration with Kayrros, an earth observation firm.

Reducing methane emissions is a powerful and cost-effective way to act on climate change, providing an essential complement to action on reducing CO2. As oil and gas will continue to be part of the energy mix for years to come, even, in rapid clean energy transitions, it is crucial for the oil and gas industry to be proactive in limiting, in all ways possible, the environmental impact of their supply. It is, also, vital that policy makers recognise action to reduce methane as a pivotal element of energy transitions.

This is not just a reputational or environmental issue for the oil and gas industry. Producers, that can demonstrate that they are taking strong action to reduce methane emissions can credibly argue that their resources should be preferred over higher-emission options. IEA estimates that oil and gas operations worldwide, emitted just over 70 million tonnes of methane into the atmosphere in 2020. Converted into equivalent amounts of CO2, assuming that one tonne of methane is equivalent to 30 tonnes of CO2, these methane emissions are comparable to the total energy-related CO2 emissions of the European Union.

This methane emissions figure for 2020 is around 10% lower than our estimate for 2019. A large portion of this drop occurred because of the fall in oil and gas production over the course of the year, especially, in countries and regions where production has a high emissions intensity, notably, Libya and Venezuela. Lower shale activity in the United States, also, played a role in bringing down these emissions, as did efforts to develop new gas infrastructure and the introduction of new methane regulations in a number of countries.

Oil production is responsible for around 40% of methane emissions today, with leaks across the natural gas value chain accounting for the remaining 60%. Upstream oil and gas operations lead to more than three-quarters of total emissions. The 07.5Mt drop in methane emissions in 2020 is equivalent to reducing annual greenhouse gas emissions by around 230Mt CO2-eq. In the IEA's Sustainable Development Scenario, the world requires a steady and rapid decline in emissions for

the next 10 years: by 2030, methane emissions are around 70% lower than in 2020. This reduction would be equivalent to eliminating CO2 emissions from all the cars and trucks across Asia.

The intensity of methane emissions varies widely across countries, that produce oil and gas. Based on annual data for 2020, IEA estimates that the emissions intensity among the worst performing countries is more than 100 times higher than among the better ones. This underlines that many countries should rapidly be able to achieve huge improvements in performance. IEA estimates that, around, 10% of leaks in 2020 could be avoided at no net cost because the value of the captured methane is sufficient to cover the cost of the abatement measure. This share is smaller than in previous years because of unusually low gas prices in 2020 but, it will expand again, if, natural gas prices rise, as they have done in early 2021.

The oil and gas industry is facing capital constraints and lower natural gas prices may make methane abatement less of a priority. Regulatory action to reduce methane emissions is, therefore, more important now than ever before. Regulatory regimes in Canada and Mexico entered new phases of implementation in 2020, which, also, saw the release of the new EU Methane Strategy. Drawing on the experience in these and other jurisdictions, IEA New Methane Regulatory Roadmap and Toolkit provides a step-by-step guide for policy-makers and regulators looking to develop new policies and regulations on methane.

Transparency on methane emissions is set to continue to improve, because of better reporting, such as, through UNEP's Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0; more ground-based and aerial measurement campaigns; and readings from satellites. The 2021 Methane Tracker update includes methane emissions from large-scale leaks, detected by satellite for the first time. Globally, around 05.5Mt of methane emissions were detected by satellites in 2020. This is a drop from the 06.7Mt of methane emissions, that were detected by satellite in 2019. Reductions were seen across a number of regions in 2020 but, large levels of emissions were still seen across US shale plays, in Turkmenistan and from pipelines in Russia. Conversely, relatively few large leaks were detected across major producers in the Middle East, including, Iraq and Kuwait.

While satellites provide a way to identify large leaks, they are not going to provide all the answers. Most notably, existing satellites do not provide measurements over equatorial regions, northern areas or for off-shore operations. Nevertheless, the urgent need to reduce emissions means that a lack of perfect information should not impede forward progress on introducing abatement measures.

It is in the strong interest of the oil and gas industry to make sure that 2019 marks the peak year for oil and gas methane emissions. Aside from the environmental gains, oil and gas operations with lower emissions intensities are increasingly likely to enjoy a commercial advantage over higher-emitting sources. Reducing methane leaks into the atmosphere is the single most important and cost-effective way for the industry to minimise overall emissions from core oil and gas operations.

This should be a first-order priority for all and regulations can play a critical role in ensuring that it happens.

The technologies, that can prevent vented and fugitive emissions are reasonably well-known. The challenge is to incentivise the deployment of these abatement technologies via voluntary or regulatory means. In some cases, investment in abatement technologies is economic, as the gas saved quickly pays for the installation of better equipment or the implementation of new operating procedures. Where reduced emissions do not pay for themselves or where barriers prevent companies from taking action that would otherwise be cost-effective, policy and regulatory interventions may serve to incentivise companies to take steps to reduce their emissions.

Voluntary initiatives, often, industry-led, have played important roles in developing new approaches to abatement and in demonstrating what is possible and practicable. However, there are limits to what can be achieved by voluntary action alone, because the pool of those, willing to take such action is limited and because the actions themselves may fall short of what is desirable from a public policy perspective. Periods of lower natural gas prices as seen in 2020, also, reduce the economic incentives to act, even, though, methane abatement offers some of the most cost-effective opportunities for emissions reduction. Sound policy and regulation have important roles to play to bring emissions into line with the trajectory in the Sustainable Development Scenario.

IEA has prepared a detailed how-to guide for countries looking to develop policies and regulations in this area. The Regulatory Roadmap and Toolkit, launched in January 2021, describes in detail the experience of jurisdictions, that have already adopted methane-specific regulations. It then seeks to translate that experience into a step-by-step guide to aid regulators in gathering the information they need to design, draft and implement an effective regulatory scheme.

Driving Down Methane Leaks from the Oil and Gas Industry: One clear insight of this guide is that policy makers, working to address oil and gas methane have a great deal to learn from each other. Many countries have already put in place regulatory requirements to address methane and policy makers should look to this existing experience in designing new policy and regulation, drawing inspiration from the approaches most applicable to their local situation.

There is a great deal of diversity among regulatory approaches and it should come as no surprise that different approaches have different advantages and disadvantages, depending on the circumstances. In particular, the effectiveness of a policy provision may depend on the range of existing administrative authorities and regulatory capacity, the nature of the industry and the local emissions profile. Another important insight is that certain regulatory approaches can lead to more economically efficient outcomes when compared to traditional, 'command-and-control' type requirements. This is because performance-based and economic instruments enable an operator to identify the most effective abatement options available across its operations rather than requiring specific measures.

On the other hand, performance-based and economic instruments, typically, require robust measurement and reporting regimes to function properly. Given this trade-off, it may be preferable to proceed with targeted command-and-control requirements as a first step rather than waiting until better data is available. Over time, it may be possible to incorporate aspects of other approaches into a primarily prescriptive regime, such as broad facility or company level targets that complement other requirements.

Read the Report https://www.iea.org/reports/methane-tracker-2021

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| | North America: USA | | The US President-Elect Joe Biden Announces Additional Key Administration Posts | |



Il Monday: January 18: 2021 Il $\dot{\alpha}$. The US President-Elect Mr Joe Biden has announced today a number of key administration posts. "These experienced public servants will lead with compassion, integrity, and character to make our government work for all Americans. "Our administration will hit the ground running to deliver immediate, urgent relief to Americans; confront the overlapping crises of COVID-19, the historic economic downturn, systemic racism and inequality, and the climate crisis; and get this government working for the people it serves.

These tireless public servants will be a key part of our agenda to build back better and I am confident they will help make meaningful change and move our country forward." said the President-Elect Mr Joe Biden. The newly announced appointments are Ms Elizabeth Klein as the Deputy Secretary of the Interior, Dr Jewel Bronaugh as the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Ms Andrea Palm as the Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, Ms Polly Trottenberg as the Deputy Secretary of Transportation, Ms Cindy Marten as the Deputy Secretary of Education, Mr Rohit Chopra as Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau:CFPB, Mr Gary Gensler as the Chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission:SEC.

The Vice President-Elect Ms Kamala Harris said, "To meet the unprecedented challenges facing the American people, we will need deeply experienced and knowledgeable leaders across our administration. These remarkable public servants reflect the very best of our nation and they will help us contain this pandemic, create an economy that works for working people and rebuild our country in a way that lifts up all Americans. President-elect Biden and I look forward to working with them to deliver results for the American people."

Ms Elizabeth Klein is an experienced leader in clean energy, climate change and environmental law and policy. Most recently, she was Deputy Director of the State Energy and Environmental Impact Centre at NYU School of Law, which supports state attorneys general in defending the nation's bedrock environmental values.

Klein served at the Department of the Interior during both the Clinton and Obama-Biden administrations, advancing high-priority initiatives such as Interior's renewable energy program and climate change adaptation efforts. She was previously an attorney at Latham and Watkins, specialising in energy and environmental law issues and served as Director of Communications and Government Relations for the National Park Foundation prior to becoming an attorney. Ms Klein graduated with a degree in economics from the George Washington University and received her JD from American University's Washington College of Law. Daughter of a former Navy Commander, Ms Klein has roots in Delaware and Massachusetts, among other places and now calls Virginia home where she lives with her husband and two daughters.

Dr Jewel H Bronaugh was appointed the 16th Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in 2018 by Governor Mr Ralph Northam. She previously served as the Virginia State Executive Director for the USDA Farm Service Agency:FSA, appointed by Governor Terry McAuliffe and then U S Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack in July 2015. Prior to

being appointed to FSA, she served as Dean of the College of Agriculture at Virginia State University:VSU with oversight of Extension, Research and Academic Programs. Previously she was the Associate Administrator for Extension Programmes and a 4-H Extension Specialist. Dr Bronaugh would be the first African-America woman to serve as the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

Ms Andrea Palm Palm is Secretary-designee of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services:DHS, overseeing one of the largest state agencies as a member of Governor Tony Evers' cabinet. In this role, she has responsibility for the state's Medicaid programme, its Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programme:SNAP and behavioural health programmes, among others. Ms Palm has been leading the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms Polly Trottenberg is a nationally recognized transportation leader with federal, state and city experience. She previously served in the Obama-Biden Administration as the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy and Under Secretary for Policy at USDOT. For the last seven years, she has served as New York City's Transportation Commissioner, running a complex 5,800-person agency, that operates New York City's transportation network of roadways, bridges, traffic and parking systems, the Staten Island Ferry, and extensive bicycle, pedestrian and public plaza infrastructure.

Ms Cindy Marten has served as Superintendent of the San Diego Unified School District since 2013 after being unanimously selected by the Board of Education. She directed implementation of the district's Vision 2020 initiative, committing to a meaningful graduation for all students with the district achieving the highest graduation rate among big-city districts in California and the fastest reading growth of large urban districts nationwide in 2019.

Ms Rohit Chopra is a Commissioner on the Federal Trade Commission. He has actively advocated to promote fair, competitive markets, that protect families and honest businesses from abuses. Commissioner Chopra was unanimously confirmed by the Senate in 2018 and he has pushed for aggressive remedies against lawbreaking companies, especially, repeat offenders. Together with state and international law enforcement partners, he has worked to increase scrutiny of dominant technology firms that pose risks to privacy, national security, and fair competition.

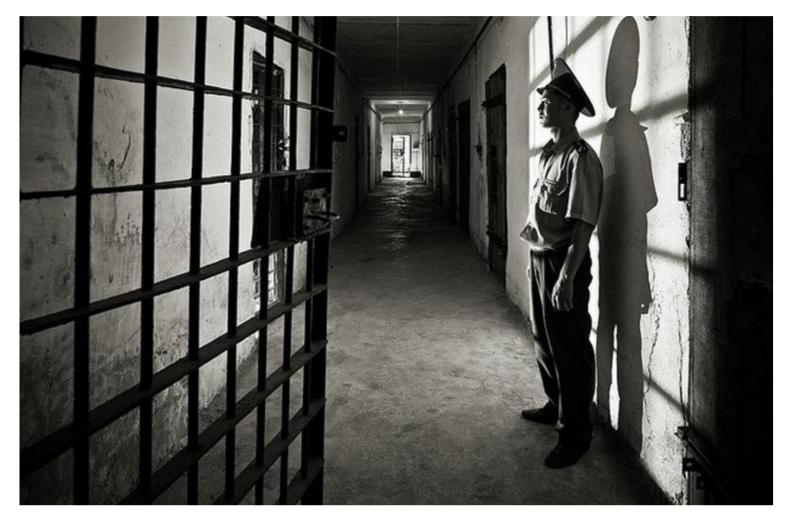
Mr Gary Gensler served as chairman of the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission from 2009 to 2014, leading the Obama-Biden Administration's reform of the \$400 trillion swaps market. He was senior advisor to US Senator Paul Sarbanes in writing the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and was Under Secretary of the Treasury for Domestic Finance from 1999 to 2001 and Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Markets from 1997 to 1999. Mr Gensler was the Chairman of the Maryland Financial Consumer Protection Commission from 2017 to 2019.

::: Caption: Clockwise: Elizabeth Klein, Deputy Secretary of the Interior: Dr Jewel Bronaugh, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture: Rohit Chopra, Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau:

Cindy Marten, Deputy Secretary of Education: Polly Trottenberg, Deputy Secretary of Transportation: Images: https://buildbackbetter.gov :::

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| | Jurisprudence | | Russia: Amnesty International Calls For Aleksei Navalny's Immediate and Unconditional Release | |



II Monday: January 18: 2021 II lpha. Mr Aleksei Navalny has been deprived of his liberty for his peaceful political activism and exercising free speech. Amnesty International considers him a prisoner of conscience and calls for his immediate and unconditional release. The Organisation reiterates its call to the Russian authorities to open a criminal investigation into Mr Navalny's poisoning and ensure that all those, responsible, are brought to justice in fair trial proceedings.

"Russian authorities must immediately and unconditionally release prominent Kremlin critic, Mr Aleksei Navalny, detained minutes after he arrived at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport from Berlin." Amnesty International said today. Mr Navalny had been recovering in the German capital

after being poisoned in Siberia in August 2020. "Aleksei Navalny's arrest is further evidence that Russian authorities are seeking to silence him.

His detention, only, highlights the need to investigate his allegations that he was poisoned by state agents, acting on orders from the highest levels." said Ms Natalia Zviagina, Amnesty International's Moscow Office Director. "The Russian authorities have waged a relentless campaign against Navalny. While he was recovering in Germany, the Russian Federal Penitentiary Service demanded that he immediately present himself to a probation officer or face prison for violating a non-custodial criminal sentence, which was based on politically motivated charges.

He has now been arrested 'for multiple violations of the probationary period'. The authorities handled Aleksei Navalny's arrival as a fully blown security operation with hundreds of police officers, summoned to the Vnukovo Airport, arresting and pushing out Navalny's supporters into -20°C cold. They didn't, even, stop at redirecting the flight to another airport, Sheremetyevo."

Ms Zviagina demanded that all of Mr Navalny supporters and journalists, detained in Moscow Vnukovo Airport must be immediately and unconditionally released. "Their only crime is wishing to greet Aleksei Navalny or to cover his arrival in Russia." she said.

The Russian authorities must end their campaign of intimidation and political persecution against their critics, including, the staff members and supporters of Mr Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation. Popular political activist, the founder of the Anti-Corruption Foundation and author of numerous ground-breaking investigations, exposing corruption among Russia's high-ranking officials and politicians, Mr Aleksei Navalny narrowly survived what has since been independently confirmed as poisoning by Novichok nerve agent on August 20, 2020.

He has been tried and convicted in two separate, politically motivated criminal cases in previous years. On December 29, the Russian Investigative Committee levelled new charges against Mr Navalny, accusing him of embezzling 356 million rubles, \$04.9 million in donations to the Anti-Corruption Foundation and affiliated non-profit organisations.

https://amnesty.org

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| | Political Economics | | The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Loans of €26 Million to Build New Wind Farms in Poland | |



II Monday: January 18: 2021 II $\dot{\alpha}$. Poland is accelerating its transition from fossil fuels with the construction of two new wind farms, financed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development:EBRD. Than Bank is providing a loan of PLN 117 million, €26 million-equivalent, for a project in the north-east of the country with a total installed capacity of 51.4 MW:Mława or 37.4 MW, located, approximately, 110km northwest of Warsaw and Grajweo, 60 km southwest from Suwałki.

EBRD finance will be complemented by a parallel loan from DNB. The wind farms will be built and operated by a joint venture between the Taaleri Solar Wind Fund II, a fund managed by Helsinki based renewable fund manager and developer Taaleri Energia and Masdar, the Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company. Both wind farms will benefit from the Polish renewable energy support scheme, contract for difference, for a portion of their respective outputs, following their successful bids in the December 2019 auction.

Poland is committed to reducing its dependency on generating energy from coal with harmful effects on the environment and human health. The new wind power plants will help reduce annual CO2 emissions by, approximately, 126,000 tonnes annually and help fulfil Poland's contribution to

the EU climate and energy targets for 2030, which include a cut of, at least, 40% in greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr Harry Boyd-Carpenter, EBRD Director for Energy EMEA, said, "We are pleased to further support the expansion of green energy in Poland with this excellent new project. We are delighted to join forces with our partners to use the opportunity to set the country on the path towards a new and sustainable energy future."

"Masdar shares EBRD's commitment to supporting green energy development and we welcome its support on this exciting new venture. Masdar has been a catalyst for renewable energy and cleantech innovation in more than 30 countries around the world and we are dedicated to helping Poland achieve its climate and energy objectives." said Mr Ahmed Al Awadi, the Director of Business Development and Investment at Masdar. "We, also, look forward further strengthening our partnership with Taaleri Energia through this venture."

"We are very satisfied with the fourth investment from the Taaleri SolarWind II fund. This investment in Polish wind is underpinned by the increasing demand for clean energy and by a combination of the Contracts for Difference scheme and the availability of commercial offtake contracts in the Polish market. EBRD is already an investor in our fund and we are delighted that they are, also, providing financing for this project. EBRD's local teams and renewable energy expertise in Central and Eastern Europe make them a valued partner for us in the region." said Taaleri Energia's Managing Director, Mr Kai Rintala.

Since the start of operations in 1991, EBRD has invested €10.8 billion in 453 projects of all sectors of the economy. Supporting the country's green transition with investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency remains one of the Bank's priorities in Poland.

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|| Political Economics || Development Banks Mobilise \$175 Billion of Private Finance in 2019 ||



II Monday: January 18: 2021 II $\dot{\alpha}$. Multi-lateral development banks:MDBs and development finance institutions:DFIs have mobilised \$175 billion of private finance in 2019, an increase of 09% over the previous year, a Report on the activities of 27 institutions published today finds. According to the Report, the reporting MDBs and DFIs mobilised \$63.6 billion of private finance in operations in countries with low and middle income.

The total mobilisation includes \$20.1 billion in private direct mobilisation, an increase of 18% over 2018 and a key priority of many MDBs. Since reporting began in 2016, MDBs have collectively increased mobilisation of private finance by 07%.

These investments support global sustainable development goals by promoting inclusive and sustainable growth, fighting poverty and inequality, mitigating the effects of climate change or achieving other development impacts.

The Report shows that mobilisation of private investments is critical for development and greater mobilisation is consistent with greater reductions in poverty and key living standards. This approach will be crucial in recovery efforts from the coronavirus pandemic.

Mr Christian Kleboth, EBRD Director, Loan Syndications, said, "Overcoming the longer-term consequences of the Covid-19 crisis will require addressing fundamental questions of sustainable and inclusive development. MDBs will play a crucial role by providing sustainable public financing and delivering objective policy advice that draws on decades of experience.

Very importantly, MDBs need to continue their focus on mobilising private capital in order to leverage their own investments. Moving beyond the crisis phase, we need to ensure we genuinely build back better."

The Report, 'The Mobilisation of Private Finance by Multilateral Development Banks and Development Finance Institutions 2019', is the fourth of the series. Based on a common methodology it measures private investment in development projects for which MDBs and DFIs have provided financing.

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| | United Kingdom | | Proceeding With Current Plans to Remove £20-a-Week Increase in Universal Credit Increase Would Reduce the Incomes of 06: Million Households by Around £1,000 | |



| | Monday: January 18: 2021 | | $\dot{\alpha}$. The Resolution Foundation has published its latest, 'The Living Standards Outlook 2021' today. The Report finds, proceeding with current plans to remove this

increase would reduce the incomes of six million households by around £1,000 and mean the incomes of the poorest fifth of working-age households fall by over 04%. It would put the basic level of unemployment benefit at its lowest in real terms since 1990-91.

Although, the fall at median incomes is smaller than the inflation-driven fall that occurred after the financial crisis, the reduction at lower incomes is set to be significantly larger than seen a decade ago. Incomes at the 10th and 20th percentile of the distribution are projected to fall by around 10% and 05% respectively next year, leaving income at the 10th percentile no higher than it was in the early 2000s. Rising unemployment and the removal of the £20 uplift in 2021-22 will, also, lead to a further 01.2 million people falling into relative poverty, 400,000 of whom are children, the biggest year-on-year rise in poverty rates since the 1980s.

By 2024-25, the Report projects that 23% of individuals will be living in relative poverty. Relative child poverty will, also, rise, with the roll-out of the two child limit and removal of the family element for families on benefits pushing over one-in-three, 33.7%, children into poverty by the end of the parliament, 730,000 more than in 2020-21.

Since the crisis hit, the Government support schemes have prevented an unprecedented collapse in GDP from turning into a living standards disaster. But the withdrawal of the extra £20 on Universal Credit:UC and Working Tax Credits:WTC, due to expire in April 2021 and the expected increase in unemployment of 900,000 in 2021-22 as the JRS comes to an end, together mean that typical non-pensioner household incomes are projected to fall by 0.4% in 2021-22.

When combined with the expected fall in incomes in 2021-22, stalled income growth after the vote to leave the EU and a much larger fall in household incomes after the financial crisis, the country is two thirds of the way through a dreadful decade and a half for living standards: real income growth of 08% is projected over the 15 years between 2009-10 and 2024-25, five times less than the 38% recorded during the 15 preceding years, 1994-95 to 2009-10.

A living standards recovery in the first half of the next decade depends on timing the withdrawal of economy support closely to the easing of the public health restrictions, a strong fiscal stimulus and moving a post-european union future and post-COVID UK onto a path of faster productivity growth. The key findings of the Report include, the Government support schemes have protected household incomes and jobs this year. Even, though, GDP in November 2020 was 08.5% below prepandemic levels, official working-age unemployment in Aug-Oct 2020 stood at just 05.1%, only, 01.2% higher than a year earlier and our nowcast implies that typical non-pensioner real household incomes grew very slightly, by 0.1%, in 2020-21.

The strength of the economic recovery is central to the pace of the living standards recovery, including, whether we can move a post-EU and post-COVID UK onto a path of faster productivity growth but, how it is experienced by households of low-to-middle income will be dominated by

the immediate decision facing the Government on whether to extend the £20 a week rise in UC and WTC.

Maintaining the current higher level of benefits would transform the living standards outlook for households of low-to-middle income, more than halving the size of their projected income fall. It would mean that incomes at the 25th percentile of the distribution would grow by a projected 04% over this Parliament, compared to a less than 01% rise.

This Report is the Agency's third, dedicated Living Standards Outlook, in which the authors assess how the hoped-for post-pandemic economic recovery might translate into a recovery for living standards. Focusing on working-age households, the Report provide projections for household disposable incomes across the income distribution.

The authors take as the basis the most recent projections from the Office for Budget Responsibility:OBR and the Government's stated policy choices and combine that with official survey data to assess the impact on households' living standards through to 2024-25.

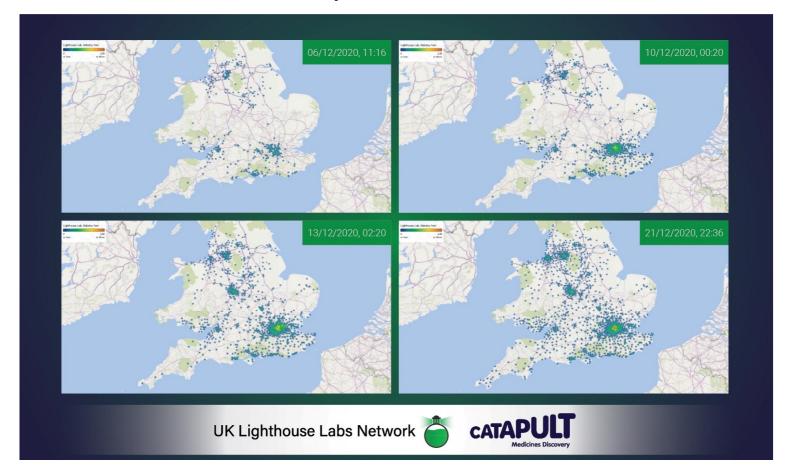
The Report has been produced by Mr Mike Brewer, Mr Adam Corlett, Mr Karl Handscomb and Mr Daniel Tomlinson

Read the Report https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/app/uploads/2021/01/Living-standards-outlook-2021.pdf

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| | United Kingdom | | COVID-19: Testing Lab Data Shows the Spread of the New COVID Variant Across the Country | |



Il Monday: January 18: 2021 Il lpha. Scientists at the Alderley Park Lighthouse Lab in Cheshire have shown the speed and scale at which the new variant of the COVID virus is spreading through communities across the country. The Lighthouse, operated by Medicines Discovery Catapult:MDC and was launched last April, plays a key role in the UK Government's national COVID testing programme. It can process more than 50,000 samples a day and has recently completed its six millionth test. Its scientists have identified the new COVID variant in the lab's PCR test and have been able to use this new science to track the spread of the new COVID variant across England and Wales.

The Thermo Fisher PCR test, used at many of the Lighthouse Lab sites, measures three genetic markers of SARS-CoV-2. Lighthouse scientists have shown that the new variant exhibits 'S-gene dropout', whereby one of the markers, the S-gene, fails to amplify but, the other two genetic markers, ORF1ab and N, are found, confirming a positive COVID result. Working with ThermoFisher, the Wellcome Sanger Institute and PHE teams, the Lighthouse Lab network first noted data trends in November.

The Lighthouse data published today shows the rise and geographical distribution of these S-gene target dropout cases from the 1st to the 21st of December 2020. The data shows rapidly increasing

numbers of cases of the new variant across London, East-South East, parts of the North West, South West regions and West Midlands.

Areas with the highest incidence in the study correlate with areas now reporting high NHS load and hospitalisation. This dramatic timeline view validates the national level of concern, concurrent with the imposition of the recent lockdown. On-going vigilance of the data, may, also, indicate regions, that in future will see high infection and hospitalisation rates.

Professor Chris Molloy, CEO of MDC and founding director of the Lighthouse Lab network believes it demonstrates the quality of the science, that underpins what is the largest diagnostics project in UK history. "Today's high-quality data from the MDC Lighthouse team shows the excellence of its science at a national scale. The Lighthouses are high-powered beacons into the darkness of this disease, combining industrial scientific rigour and close co-ordination with NHS and PHE in the service of the nation." said Professor Molloy.

Dr Mark Wigglesworth, the Site Director at the Alderley Park Lighthouse Lab and senior author of the report, said, "Although, the speed of the spread is shocking, we're working really closely with the government to share our scientific discoveries and advancements, which, in-turn, informs decision making across the devolved nations, so that we can be in the best position to beat the virus.

While a new national lockdown is not what anyone would have wanted, our scientists' work in discovering the spread of the new variant will be pivotal in informing government policy, protecting the NHS and saving lives."

Medicines Discovery Catapult:MDC created and runs the Lighthouse Lab at Alderley Park, launched in April 2020 on a not-for-profit basis following a request from the Department for Health to rapidly expand COVID-19 testing. Alderley Park Lighthouse Lab is part of the largest diagnostics network in UK history, set up in response to an unprecedented global pandemic. Its testing capacity was successfully set up, and scaled up, at speed.

The lab can process 50,000 samples daily and has, to date, processed over six million samples from regional test centres, mobile test units, care homes and home testing kits. More than 500 skilled key workers are based at the lab, brought in from a range of backgrounds and experiences. The crucial work, carried out at Lighthouse Lab, helps save lives, protect the NHS and further the British economy.

It should be noted that the samples arriving at the Alderley Park facility near Manchester are primarily from the Northwest of England, hence the absolute numbers of S-gene failure do not fully represent the level of incidence and geographical concern.

Nor can a low count be conclusive proof of the variant not being present. However, when viewed as a percentage of samples this does clearly show a geographical bias. Although, again, not a complete dataset due to the limitations of sampling, the animation does show a clustering around

population centres of London, cities of the coastal South, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol and Liverpool which are all clearly identifiable.

The identifiers on the map use 'postal districts', which is the first part of the postcode, an anonymised sample has come from, e.g, SK17. This data was provided by DHSC data platforms for this study.

The current PCR test is still considered effective in identifying COVID infection. Failure of the sgene detection does not significantly alter the clinical validity of the results.

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|| Jurisprudence || Sri Lanka: COVID-19 Forced Cremation of Muslims Discriminatory: Human Rights Watch ||

Human Rights Watch said today. The government's spurious argument that burial in accordance with Islamic tradition poses a public health risk stigmatises, oppresses and causes immense distress to a vulnerable minority. The Sri Lankan government of President Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa has claimed that burying people, who died of COVID-19 complications, may, 'contaminate ground water'.

It has not changed the policy, first codified in a March 31, 2020 regulation, despite World Health Organisation guidelines that burial is safe and growing opposition from United Nations experts, medical professionals in Sri Lanka and religious leaders of all major faiths in the country. Among those, cremated against the wishes of their family, have been a 20-day-old infant and a woman, whom the authorities later acknowledged did not have COVID-19.

"For families, already, grieving the loss of a loved one, the Rajapaksa Government's forced disposal of remains in a manner contrary to their beliefs is an outrageous and offensive assault on religious rights and basic dignity." said Ms Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia Director at Human Rights Watch. "This policy, only, serves to cultivate intolerance and social division."

In recent weeks the policy has sparked protests around the country. Authorities removed strips of white cloth, that activists tied to the fence of the Borella crematorium in Colombo to protest the forced cremation of the baby. Several Muslim families have decided to leave the body of their loved ones, who died of COVID-19 complications in hospital mortuaries rather than to permit cremation. Others say that they have been coerced into allowing the cremation or that it occurred without their knowledge.

"My friends and family asked the authorities how they can go ahead with the cremation when neither of the parents had signed any document, giving consent." Mr Mohamed Fahim, the father of the baby, named, Shaykh, told reporters. "It is, as, if, they rushed to cremate our baby. When we asked questions, they didn't have any proper answer."

Sri Lankan civil society groups, in a joint statement after the ban was introduced, warned that there were already 'outpourings of vitriol and hate speech against Muslims' and that it was 'important to ensure that decisions, regarding matters of public health, do not result in the persecution or marginalisation of the Muslim population'.

The Government has done little to combat incitement against Muslims, such as, false rumours that the community deliberately spread the coronavirus, which are, often, shared by government supporters and in pro-government media. Opposition to the policy has grown in recent weeks. The Sri Lanka Medical Association on January 01, said that the novel coronavirus could not be transmitted by dead bodies.

The College of Community Physicians of Sri Lanka said on December 31 that there was 'no solid evidence', supporting the regulation. Christian, Hindu and Buddhist religious leaders wrote in a joint letter on December 26 that religious rights were protected by the Sri Lankan constitution. A Health Ministry expert panel recommended on December 29 that disposal of bodies could include burial, as well as, cremation.

In April, four United Nations special rapporteurs wrote to the government stating that the regulation violated the right to freedom of religion and that the government should combat attempts to instigate religious hatred and violence. In November the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation condemned the policy as a violation of religious rights, guaranteed by international law.

Several fundamental rights petitions were filed against the regulation at the Supreme Court, which dismissed the cases on December 01 without explanation. The Court's independence has been undermined by the Parliament's adoption, in October, of the 20th amendment to the constitution, which gives the President control over Supreme Court appointments.

President Mr Rajapaksa, whose 2019 election campaign courted Sri Lanka's Sinhala Buddhist majority, said in a November 2020 speech that there were 'legitimate fears that the Sinhala race, our religion, national resources and the heritage would be threatened with destruction in the face of various local and foreign forces and ideologies, that support separatism, extremism and terrorism'.

"We want to be buried on our own soil." said Mr Ali Zahir Moulana, a Sri Lankan Muslim and former member of parliament. Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa's Government has adopted various policies and practices, that have a discriminatory impact on Sri Lanka's Muslim and Tamil minorities in particular. During Sri Lanka's 26-year civil war, which ended in 2009, Mr Rajapaksa, as Defense Secretary during the government of his brother Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, was implicated in war crimes and human rights abuses against Tamil civilians. After becoming President, Mr Gotabaya

Rajapaksa renounced Sri Lanka's earlier commitments to justice and accountability, made to the UN Human Rights Council.

Ms Michele Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for human rights, has warned that continuing impunity risks fuelling communal or inter-ethnic violence and instability. The UN Human Rights Council, at its session, beginning in February, will consider a resolution to uphold international law in Sri Lanka and to seek to protect vulnerable minorities from further abuses.

"Denying Sri Lankan Muslims the right to bury their dead is causing intense distress, stoking communal hatred and is without any scientific basis." Ms Ganguly said. "Foreign governments need to recognise Sri Lanka's dangerous downturn and act before the situation deteriorates further."

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What Are Building-Block Foundational Human Rights



Ask Your Political Leaders About Building-Block Foundational Human Rights and Ask Them About Humanics

The Building-Block Foundational Human Rights

A: Absolute Right to Live in Clean, Healthy, Safe and Natural Environment

B: Absolute Right to Breathe Natural, Fresh, Clean and Safe Air

C: Absolute Right to Necessary Nutritional Balanced Food and Drink

D: Absolute Right to Free Medical Care at the Point of Need

E: Absolute Right to an Absolute Home

F: Absolute Right to Free Degree-Level Education and Life Long Learning

G: Absolute Right to Guaranteed Social Care

H: Absolute Right to a Universal Income

I: Absolute Right to a Job

J: Absolute Right to Dignified Civic and Human Funeral Paid Through by Universal Income



This Is the Body of Work, by Munayem Mayenin, That Has Brought Into Existence the Philosophy and Vision of Humanics

Dehumanisation of Humanity: Volume One: Published: July: 2007: 978-1-4477-1330-2

Mayenin worked and developed the very critique of capitalism and Marxism while at university in which he had elvisioned the world's future in humanics for humanity to reach and achieve liberty and equality for all humanity, which capitalism has continually slaughtered and Marxism failed desperately, even, to understand, let alone, to know or show how to seek and achieve them. Some of these works were published in publications in the early 00s and the volume was published as a book in 2007. There are three other volumes of this planned work, yet to be published.

Humanics The Foundation: Volume One: Published: December 06: 2017: ISBN: 978-0-244-34575-4

This piece of work elaborated the philosophy of humanics and presented the idea of human enterprise and how it works to enable humanity to conduct the human economical endeavours in humanics.

<u>Humanics The Humanicsonomics: Volume Two: Published: June 12: 2018: ISBN: 978-0-244-48334-0</u>

This is the political economics or humanicsonomics of humanics in human enterprise. This volume presents the political economics of humanics and elvisioned world's future as two distinct phases: pre-humanical or Kapitalawnomics phase in which capitalism is saved from pseudonomics and brought under the absolute and complete control and power of the rule of law so to make it serve the people at all times and not the rich and through this phase, humanity brings into existence the humanical Building-Block Foundational Human Rights and end capitalism's Poverty Paradigm, that causes all of the high-cruelties, high-brutalities and high-barbarities, that are inflicted on the vast number of humanity on this earth. Further to this, this work advances the system and mechanism of human enterprise and elvisioned at the end of the development of Kapitalawnomics human societies will have developed enough to be able and equipped to try and seek to bring into existence humanical societies, that will begin to form a grid of humanical societies into a universal humanical civilisation on earth.

The Humanics Elleesium Declaration 2019: The Humanicsxian Manifesto: Published: April 06: 2019: ISBN: 978-0-244-76474-6

This short piece of work nano-summarised the entire body of Munayem Mayenin's works on humanics. This calls on the working humanity of the world to rise, organise and united under new and humanical political forces, parties and organisations to seek and try to bring about a humanical world movement to lead humanity to equality and liberty.

Humanics The Humanicsovics: Volume Three: To Be Published Later This Year

This volume presents the political philosophy of humanics and the means to deliver that political philosophy by and through humanicsovics, humanical direct form of democracy without party politics whereby each and every individual human being becomes his:her own High Representative and they all run their society's human affairs management together as individuals, working together as scientists and mathematicians without any political parties.

Alphansum Sovereign Necessarius: Published April 14: 2020: ISBN: 978-0-244-58241-8

Although, this large volume is of metaphysical work, it has brought the whole humanical universal view in a harmonious outlook, unifying all expressions, fields, areas and arenas of human existence and in this process this work elvisioned the coming into existence the new branches of science, that has already been mentioned.

Laranska The Anatomy of Fear: Novel: Published: January 2009: ISBN: 978-1-4477-1426-2

No Man's Land's Bloom: Play: Published: May 2010: ISBN: 978-1-4477-0903-9

<u>United Colours of Blood: Screenplay: Published: January 2009: ISBN: 978-1-4477-1615-0</u>

Larantia Poetry of Anatophysiophilosophicamonimayareginata: A Magnum of a Planned Volume of 850 Sonnets About All Branches of Medicine: Currently Having Few Hundred Sonnets: First Published: October 14, 2016: ISBN: 978-1-326-28882-2

In his other major bodies of works, that are yet to be published Mayenin has worked on further in elaborating the psychology and social psychology of the zoohumanity, that capitalism and all the dehumanisations it has inflicted on humanity through its enforcement of inequality and the absence of liberty. These as yet unpublished works include: Psychology of Zoohuman, Humanical Jurisprudence, Sociology of Evil, Economics of Squalors: The High-Cruelties High-Brutalities and High-Barbarities of Capitalism, Humanical Moral Science, Social Morality Or Good State, Humanical Civilisation: A Universal Grid of Humanical Societies and Colossus Complexus: Eternally Learning Humanity.

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Money and, with Them, the Power They Generate and Confer, That Lets One Small Group of Humans, The Powerfuls, Subjugating the Vast Multitude of Humans, The Powerless, Under Their Dictatorship. For Only by Taking Away 'the Gun' of the Power of the Powerfuls, Humanity Can Bring About the State of Liberty, as Well as, Equality at Once: Equality and Liberty Can Not and Do Not Exist Separately But Together and Simultaneously. Equality and Liberty Exist as The Promethumean Fire: In Which There is the Light and There is the Heat in One Flame: The Humanion Stands Here on the Path of Humanics: A State of Liberty for All Humanity at Equality. The Promethumean: Where Prometheus is Not Seen as a Man But a Human: In Short, Regine Humanics Foundation Ltd and The Humanion Stand for These and Exist and Work for the Promotion of This Vision of Humanics for a Better Human Condition for All Humanity Across the Mother Earth on the Mother Universana: We Invite You All for Your Support: Join Us in Telling the World and World Humanity That: An Infinitely Better Human Condition for All Humanity Across the Mother Earth IS Possible. | | Regine Humanics Foundation Ltd | |

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There can not be any sustainability until and unless we take the view that sustainability comes as philosophical, political philosophical, political economical, ethical, moral, sociological, educational, jurisprudential, socio-cultural and ecological and humanical spiritual so that we are able to create a sustainable 'architecture' of existence in a clean, green, circular and sustainable political economics, that underpins all forms and expressions of sustainability and when such an 'architecture' exists within the Larin Paraske Maxim or Oath: Do No Harm to Anyone or Anything: all things and all living forms must have equitable status in the sphere of all existence or all life on earth, with an emphasis on the Universana. Because humanity does not just exist on earth but it does so in the Sunnara, in the Home Bay of the Milky Way Galaxy in the vast expanse of the Universe, our home Universana. Dear Reader, we are on the path of humanics, please, tell the world and world humanity that humanics has arrived on earth from 'the without of human imagination', learning, questioning and thoughts, gained from the eternal walks of this human soul's eternal journey on the eternal path of eternal learning, with its humanical metaphysics, humanical philosophy as natural science, humanical psychology, humanical political philosophy, humanical political economics, humanical jurisprudence, humanical sociology, humanical moral science and humanical arealism. For capitalism has created global warming and climate change and wracked the earth with environmental degradations and pollutions in all spheres, where bio-diversity is getting lost at an alarming rate as the earth keeps on being heated up. Humanity is devastated by capitalism's poverty-paradigm, delivering all its high-cruelties, high-brutalities and highbarbarities. This is why it is paramount that that we speak up and out and try our hardest to inspire faith, hope, determination and resolution among all humanity of this world, women and men, that we shall not just accept this 'sentence of doom', that capitalism's mindless consumerism, infinite greed of infinite profiteering, decadent voguism and venomous voyeurism, orchestrated by the Distorteddia have brought us and, yet, that we can, we should, we ought, we must keep on trying: 'to seek to try: to do: to change: to make better the human condition' and we do so as one humanity, as women and men, working together as one, in unison with the same aim, same goal, same objective: to get all humanity to liberty, equality, fairness and justice in the rule of law in natural justice, with a purpose and meaning to our existence, where we all humanity, with our all-unity and all-diversity, exist as one humanity naturale on one Mother Earth, in one Sunnara, in one Home Bay Milky Way Galaxy in the one Universana with the humanical foundation of faith: humanity is an infinity unfolding itself, in which, we are all-for-one and one-for-all.

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