

My name is Aileen Ye and I'm from Dublin, Ireland. I graduated from BA International Studies in 2019, with a specialisation in the region of Russia and Eurasia. Currently, I'm studying MSc Sociology at Erasmus University Rotterdam. I feel that my academic background has definitely helped me with my current project, *Blue Nile*, but the social experiences during my studies were just as important in informing my understandings. Before any of us knew we would be starting this project, I met Celia (the director) during my BAIS exchange in London. Amazingly, she established a global crew of her friends to work on *Blue Nile* together. During my studies, I also became aware about LUGO after they introduced the sustainable water bottles in campus to reduce plastic waste. I was very excited that they were making an impact in the university and finally taking steps towards change!



*Blue Nile* is an independent and non-profit documentary which critically tackles the issues of climate change about marginalised communities who resist, specifically in Ethiopia. This film will examine a coffee-farm, the Yukro cooperative, which is home to over a hundred women who grow, harvest, and serve coffee beans in a harmonious spectacle of Ethiopian tradition. One of the women, Hanesoo, began working at the co-op 15 years ago to support her family when she was left stranded due to political conflict, unable to return home to Eritrea. Now that peace between the two countries has been officially declared, the opportunity arises for Hanesoo to reunite with her children. She now focuses on earning enough money from the co-op to travel home, but her ability to do so depends on this year's harvest which is threatened by crop shortages and rising temperatures as a result of climate change.



Underscoring the complexity of human nature in the context of environmental turmoil, this film will bring a heart-warming narrative to a topic often overshadowed by despair. Ultimately, this documentary will connect an industrialised audience to traditional rurality, both bound together by the universal threat of climate change, and the warmth and familiarity of coffee. I believe that finding new avenues to vocalise the imminent dangers of climate change is extremely crucial as our generation lives with this reality in a way our parents never did. As the world descends into literal chaos, we struggle to visualise what we can do and what the future holds. Through this documentary, I hope to gain some sense of purpose and direction in the face of this universal threat.

Although incorporating sustainability into one's personal, academic, and/or work life is different for everyone, I think the best way is to combine it with a passion to provide yourself with more of a purpose whether that be filmmaking, homecrafts, buying local, and changing consuming patterns. *Think small, then aim big.* Your lifestyle is most important, because then it becomes reflected through your academic and work life.