

BERKELEY INSTITUTE FOR YOUNG AMERICANS

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Stuttgart/London/Sydney/Tokyo/Berkeley/Lagos

November 16, 2023

16 November Proclaimed Worldwide Intergenerational Fairness Day

A worldwide day of action has been proclaimed by an international network of non-partisan organisations that exist to protect the rights of younger and future generations.

16 November 2023 will see organisations from Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, Japan, Nigeria and Australia, come together to call for greater intergenerational fairness so that the interests of younger and future generations are better protected both nationally and internationally.

Accelerating global warming, escalating (nuclear) arms races, the loss of biodiversity, unaligned artificial intelligence, and human-made pandemics are just some of the new risks experienced by today's youth and future generations that lack adequate government intervention.

Within existing public policy, rapidly growing national debts, the cost-of-living crisis, high housing costs, and eroding pensions, are some of the policy areas where young people are losing out.

In a nutshell, in too many areas of life, society is acting at the expense of young people and future generations. A joint and intensive effort to secure the existence of humanity beyond the next decades is required.

The organisers argue that many of these problems are not just national, but global. While the specific context may differ from country to country, the general trend is that governments worldwide focus on solving short-term problems with little regard to long-term sustainability, whether it be natural resources, government spending or investment in the futures of younger and future generations.

Intergenerational Fairness Day wants to encourage people to think about this essential topic and to draw attention to its importance. Government decision-makers must be reminded of their responsibility towards future generations and work together to create a future that is fair and sustainable for all generations.

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Press contact:

Lena Winzer, dialoq@srzg.de

Note: Interviews are also available with country-specific representatives, detailed above.

Notes to Editors:

Germany - Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations

is a think tank and activist group. We were founded 1997 by a group of young people who equally represented all political youth organisations at that time. One founding member came from the young Greens, one from the young Liberals, one from the young Christian Democrats and one from the young Social Democrats. Ambassadors, trustees and researchers support the foundation in its work. What we share is the conviction that societies worldwide focus on solving short-term problems with little regard to long-term intergenerational justice, whether it be natural resources, government spending or investment in the futures of younger and future cohorts. Politics and society are obsessed with the here and now. Slowly-emerging problems lack public and political attention. The costs of today's political, economic and social decisions are all too frequently shifted into the future. Younger generations are affected most by today's decisions in the long-run — and yet their voice is under-represented in the decision-making process. Unborn generations have no voice at all. We want to be their voice.

Press contact: Jörg Tremmel, CEO, joerg.tremmel@srzg.de, phone: 00 49 711 28052777

United Kingdom – Intergenerational Foundation (IF)

IF exists to protect the rights of younger and future generations in the UK. Our mission is to ensure that all policy is assessed for its impact on younger and future generations. Key areas of focus are: the housing crisis and unaffordability; the pension settlement between the generations; high taxation facing younger generations; reduced spending on younger generations; a lack of long-term planning or investment; the climate crisis and the need to move more swiftly towards a low carbon society; and high student debt facing young people in England and Wales.

Press contact: Liz Emerson, CEO, liz@if.org.uk, mobile: 00 44 7971228823

United States of America - The Berkeley Institute for Young Americans

The Berkeley Institute for Young Americans is a research institute at the University of California, Berkeley. We undertake path-breaking research to better understand the unique challenges facing younger generations and develop the public policy interventions needed to solve them. We believe the next generation holds the ideas needed to reimagine public policy for a better future, and we provide the research and policy options to empower them to lead this transformation.

Press contact: Erin Heys, Erin.heys@berkeley.edu

Canada – Generation Squeeze

Generation Squeeze is a charitable Think and Change Tank promoting wellbeing for all generations. We're championing generational fairness to preserve what Canadians hold sacred—a healthy childhood, home and planet—so we all leave a proud legacy. Generational unfairness is a root cause of unaffordable housing, the high cost of raising a family, mounting climate risks, growing government debt, and rising medical costs that crowd out investments in wellbeing.

Press contact: Paul Kershaw, paul.kershaw@ubc.ca

Australia – Think Forward

Think Forward was founded in response to a growing awareness that young people in Australia face an economic burden unique to previous generations. Current tax and economic policies mean that young people are underwriting the lives of older Australians to an extent never seen before. And, with increased insecure work, rising housing costs, and inheriting the impacts of the climate crisis, Australia's millennial generation is at risk of being the first to have worse economic outcomes than the one before.

We want to live in a society where intergenerational fairness is centred. We do this by advocating for change with policymakers, undertaking research and analysis, and inspiring and educating younger generations.

Press contact: Thomas Walker, thomas@thinkforward.org.au

The Netherlands – milliongenerations

milliongenerations.org started with the question how there could be most happiness. The milliongenerations foundation exists from 2009 to 2034 to make it more likely that the future is very long, that there actually will be generations of beings alive on this planet for as long as the sun shines. Little so far prevents us from endangering future beings. We, who enjoy the fruits of progress, must protect the interests of those who do not yet exist and expand their possibilities. We must reduce risks that threaten the existence of civilisation (such as unaligned artificial intelligence, man-made pandemics, conflicts and runaway climate change) with a joint and formidable effort to make it likely that we and our – common – descendants continue to survive progress. Our political and economic models must become able to develop forever and work primarily for the vast majority: those who are still to come. We should not want to predict the future, but we should make it possible. Let us be good ancestors.

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