HAVING KIDS™

Planning a fair start

HavingKids.org

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Dear Prince William and Duchess Kate,

We read with interest your statements about having more children. Our organization, Having Kids, promotes a sustainable and child-centered family planning model, and we wanted to offer a few thoughts for your consideration. As you know and appreciate, the example the British Royal Family sets is extremely influential. Many studies also show that public figures serve as effective role models when it comes to family planning. Your discussion of having a larger family raises compelling issues of sustainability and equity.

Large families are not sustainable. As degraded as the world's environment is today, none of us can imagine what the world would be like if fertility rates had not been halved in the 20th Century, below 3 children per woman. We must keep moving in the right direction, especially given the many studies that show family planning has the most potential for mitigating climate change and its impacts. The future of your country will be defined by the impacts of climate change. Some of these impacts include:

- More severe flooding – both from heavier rains and coastal flooding.
- Deadlier heatwaves.
- Increase in diseases such as malaria.
- Wildlife extinctions.

Melting glaciers could affect the North Atlantic circulation, completely changing the United Kingdom's weather. All of us – especially public figures – should plan our families with the future environment in mind, producing a smaller and more resilient populace capable of thriving in that environment.

Of course, we know that Prince George and Princess Charlotte are certain to have wonderful lives, protected from the deprivations of poverty and the threat of environmental degradation. They will receive optimal amounts of care and attention, as well as the best possible education.

But the same can't be said of every future child. Having Kids promotes the Fair Start family planning model, which encourages smaller families to work together to plan a fair start in life for every child. It's simple: Families plan a fair start for their own child and help others do the same. Rather than having a third or more children, families consider forgoing another child and taking part of the substantial resources saved to help a different family plan a fair start in life for their child. There are many ways to do this and we can provide more information.

The point is simply this: Family planning should be child-centered, and the Fair Start model is a serious move towards ensuring all children get the equal opportunities in life they deserve. And that they do so in a healthy, safe, and greener environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anne Green
Executive Director
Having Kids

Carter Dillard
President

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