



January 17, 2019

Your Highness,

Congratulations on the recent announcement of your patronages. The organizations that you selected demonstrate your compassion and interest in improving both human and non-human lives.

As you joyfully prepare for the arrival of your little one, we would like to respectfully ask you and your husband to consider setting an urgently needed, groundbreaking example for the world. And that is by making the thoughtful choice to have a small family. <sup>1</sup>

Our organization, Having Kids, promotes the sustainable and human-rights based Fair Start family planning model to ensure a fair start in life for every child. Small, well-planned families are the most effective way to end poverty and to reduce our impact on the planet at the same time.<sup>2</sup>

As you know, climate change is accelerating and affecting people in all areas of the world. By 2050, humankind will need 100% more biocapacity than exists. Inequality is increasing globally after years of decline, and the facts are worrying:

- 387 million children worldwide live in extreme poverty.
- 4.5 million children in the UK live in poverty, and that number is expected to soar.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://havingkids.org/featured-family-counters-growing-royal-family/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://havingkids.org/faqs/white-paper-draft/> The current and near-universal approach to family planning treats the decision to have a child as a personal or private matter, with would-be parents left in isolation. This leads us to ignore the impacts of family planning on society and our natural environment - despite the fact that family planning can impact things like human development, poverty, inequality, and climate change, on a scale 10-20 times greater than any other human behavior. A better approach would be to build our family planning systems around a truly human-rights based approach - one designed to give every child a fair start in life. That approach would establish a vital link between the decision to create children and the needs they present, with assurance of the resources necessary to meet those needs. Establishing that link - and mutual obligations between would-be parents and their communities - is the key to meeting the world's sustainable development goals, and a better future.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/sep/16/new-study-finds-45-million-uk-children-living-in-poverty>

- Children born into poverty are more likely to be poor as adults, passing it on to their kids.
- As inequality increases, child welfare decreases.
- Children of color are disproportionately affected.
- Inequality manifests in a number of ways including child abuse, unsafe neighborhoods, poor health, and impeded cognitive development and ability to learn. In fact, 200 million young children do not develop at the same level as their non-poor peers.

But when parents wait and have small families, they and their communities are able to invest more in every child to give them a fair start on a level playing field. Smaller families have also been shown to:

- increase gender equality as women with small families tend to have greater decision making power and greater lifetime success
- increase the standard of living of families
- improve financial and familial stability
- results in better parenting and increased levels of happiness

And that's why your example would be so important. The COP24 global summit this past fall showed that world leaders are failing in their duty to address the greatest threat to the stability and sustainability of our planet: large families. The world needs conscientious figures like you and your husband to model a mindful family planning choice, one that considers the future in which children will live.

We invite you to learn more about how Fair Start family planning as the best way to a fairer, safer, greener world for all kids by visiting [HavingKids.org](http://HavingKids.org).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Erika Mathews  
Executive Director

Carter Dillard  
President

Having Kids  
[HavingKids.org](http://HavingKids.org)