HAVING KIDS
Planning a fair start

April 14, 2021

Dear President Biden,

We thank you for your efforts since taking office to recognize inequities and incorporate more inclusive approaches in policies and plans, from the COVID-19 vaccine rollout to the infrastructure plan.

Members of Congress are now urging you to declare a climate emergency and use your presidential powers to take immediate action to address the crisis, which is quickly accelerating. Having Kids, along with other organizations are asking you to do the same. Here's why:

Declaring a climate emergency would make way for the advancement of environmental justice. The climate crisis fundamentally arose from our global prioritization of economies over human rights. Because of this, we have failed to guarantee that all children have an eco-social fair start in life. But the right to a fair start in an equitable and habitable environment is the first and overriding human right. Ensuring that right does the most good for the most vulnerable.

Given that, there is a constitutional obligation of the President to protect the right to a fair start. Declaring a climate emergency is part of that obligation. It would also enable you to fulfill universal obligations to advance reproductive justice, promote a restorative environmental baseline pegged to things like a 300ppm climate emissions target, revise tax incentives to instead promote eco-centric, antiracist, and egalitarian family planning policies, and secure adequate funding for the approval, marketing and subsidization of the male pill, not to mention, do the most good for animals.

Fair Start policy is the genesis of social justice, and the beginning of actually constituting democracies through the limitation and decentralization of human power. It was and is wrong to put population-driven economic growth over that right, or over smaller and more functional democracies where each voice is influential.

Acting to declare an emergency now, and to take immediate next steps for any or all the reasons given above, would start to right this wrong.

Thank you for your action towards a more just future for all children.

Sincerely,

Catharina Hughey
Director, Having Kids