

Rediscovering and Reshaping Human Rights in a Post Pandemic World

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Fighting for their Future-Youth litigants and Intergenerational Climate Justice

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Climate change is on many people's minds-particularly young people. Inspiration from the address to the 1992 Rio Conference by 12 year old Savern Cullis-Suzuki to Greta Thunberg skipping school on Fridays to protest against Sweden's inaction in 2018, young climate activists are not tolerating the impacts of public inaction by governments or apathy by adults and taking the initiative with climate justice.

Youth -led climate litigation is a global trend to demand accountability for lack of government climate policy and action or failure of implementation. This presentation will review youth-led climate litigation and its impact in the Asia Pacific region It will also consider other options open to achieve intergenerational equity such as the complaint against Australia to the UN Human Rights Committee by a group of Torres Strait Islander people accusing the Government of violating their human rights by not adequately reducing climate emissions or helping them to adapt to changing conditions. Part of the claim is based on the Un Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Another emerging initiative is Youth Climate Courts (YCC) grew out of the success of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal Session on Human Rights, Fracking and Climate Change organized over several years and brought to the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal in Rome for a series of hearings in 2018.

YCC process and procedure is based in human rights standards and environmental laws which encourage governments to respect and enforce the human and environmental rights protections for their citizens. YCC are a grassroots approach rather than a top-down approach starting with young people rather than adults and it can work with governments that are smaller (for example local or regional councils). YCC are a practical way to highlight intergenerational climate law and governance learning for planet health advocacy

A YCC have been held in Australia in 2019 which will be reviewed and one is planned for Oregon in the USA.