

Right to Clean Air

Citation	Summary
Articles	
<p>The Human Right to Breathe Clean Air</p> <p>David R Boyd</p> <p>85 Annals Glob. Health 146 (2019)</p>	<p>Five national academies of science and medicine-from <u>Brazil, Germany, South Africa, and the United States</u>-issued a powerful statement about air pollution's immense impacts on public health. The statement concluded that the evidence linking air pollution and adverse health effects is unequivocal, the costs are enormous and yet the problem is preventable. However, it is insufficient to treat clean air as a policy objective. It must be regarded as a fundamental human right, related to the rights of life, health, and a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The human rights perspective changes everything, because governments have clear, legally enforceable obligations to respect, protect, and fulfill human rights.</p> <p>https://doi.org/10.5334/aogh.2646</p>
<p>Do Future Generations Have the Right to Breathe Clean Air? A Note</p> <p>Bertram Bandman</p> <p>10 Pol. Theory 95 (1982)</p>	<p>Four positions on the rights and duties attributable to future generations and ourselves:</p> <p>(1) The first position holds that future generations have rights substantially like our rights, which imply obligations against us. For some defenders of the rights of future generations, these rights take the form (a) of an extended eternal contract between members of one generation, linking them and members of all other generations inextricably (Edmund Burke). For others (b), the rights of future generations flow from a less extended contract model between members of adjacent and near-adjacent generations. The rights of any generation are due to what a predecessor generation would justly set aside for them (J. Rawls). For yet others (c), the move to attribute rights to indefinite others or "not-yet-determinate persons" (A. Baier) includes potential beings who will have interests, needs and rights very much like ourselves (A. Baier, G. Pletcher, E. Partridge)) For all three variations, the rights of future generations are like our rights.</p> <p>(2) A second position is that future generations may have in rem rights attributable to them which imply imperfect obligations. On this view, the rights of future generations are conditional rights, like the right of a drowning person to live only if others are near enough to save this person without seriously risking their own lives.</p> <p>(3) A third position is that we have duties of varying strength to future generations but they have no rights. On this view, our obligations are of the kind: What can one spare for a "stranger" or beggar? This seems to be the position of D. C. Hubin, G. Kavka, B. Barry, J. Bennett, J. Narveson, M. Warren, M. Golding, and R. Machlin.</p> <p>(4) A fourth position is that we have no duties to future generations and that they have no rights. Whether there even are future generations is a matter of complete indifference to us who are now living and who alone have rights. This seems to be the position of R. De George, T. Schwartz, and W. Beckerman.</p> <p>https://doi.org/10.1177/0090591782010001006</p>
Op-eds and Blogs	

<p>A bill before parliament for the right to breathe clean air</p> <p>Elaine Mulcahy, Director UK Health Alliance on Climate Change</p> <p>BMJ, 380, p. 224 (Jan. 27, 2023)</p>	<p>Opinion piece discussing Ella’s Law, the Clean Air (Human Rights) Bill. The Bill is named after Ella Roberta Adoo Kissi Debrah who died in 2013 at the age of none due to asthma caused by excessive air pollution. The law would require the UK government to address air quality.</p> <p>https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.p224</p>
<p>Children have a right to clean air, and we must fight for it to become a reality</p> <p>Camilla Kingdon, President Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health</p> <p>BMJ, 379, p2425 (Oct. 13, 2022)</p>	<p>Opinion piece arguing that the UK needs to set more ambitious targets for limiting particulate matter in the air to improve air quality.</p> <p>https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.o2425</p>