

Families affected by the climate crisis should be heard in court!

“ These families, who initiated a joint litigation action, put their trust in the courts and the jurisdiction of the EU to protect their fundamental rights, which are threatened by climate change. The courts should listen the families and ensure that their rights are protected.

Dr. Roda Verheyen,
coordinating lawyer



Sáminuorra, the Sami youth association in Sweden

The EU must substantially increase its 2030 climate target to protect its citizens and their rights

Countries’ individual commitments, including the EU’s current 2030 climate target, are projected to only limit warming at best to 3 °C. The EU’s greenhouse gas emission reductions target of at least 40 % by 2030 compared to 1990 levels is objectively insufficient to prevent the climate crisis and fails to protect their human rights. The plaintiffs demand the EU to urgently and substantially increase its 2030 climate target. This is the only way for the EU to keep its promises under the Paris Agreement and protect its citizens from the climate crisis.

Stand in solidarity with families in their fight for climate justice!

The families and the Sami youth showcase that climate change is a human rights issue. They do not only fight for their lives, livelihoods and rights but also for our future.

Show your solidarity and sign the petition:

<https://wemove.eu/climate-case>



The plaintiffs are accompanied by a broad range of NGOs, scientists and citizens who firmly believe that the EU can and must be more ambitious regarding its 2030 climate target. Scientists from Climate Analytics provide interdisciplinary scientific background for the case. Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe, Protect the Planet, Germanwatch, ZERO, 2 Celsius and the Danish Ecological Council actively support the plaintiff families.



#PeoplesClimateCase

<https://peoplesclimatecase.caneurope.org>



Armando Carvalho from Portugal

Photo: Noemi Rodrigo Sabio



Climate change threatens peoples’ livelihoods all over the world

Families impacted by climate change are taking the EU to court demanding better climate protection

They are supported by scientists, NGOs and citizens

**Call
for
Climate
Justice**

People's Climate Case

Climate change already has severe impacts on ecosystems, the economy, human health and the well-being of people around the world, including Europe. Ten families and the indigenous Sami youth association came together to take the EU to court over the inadequacy of its 2030 climate target. In their lawsuit, filed in May 2018, they ask the Court to order European decision makers to take more stringent climate protection measures to protect their fundamental rights as well as the global environment.

Information about the legal process and the current state of proceedings can be found on our website:
<https://peoplesclimatecase.caneurope.org>



Elter family from Italy

The plaintiffs

The plaintiff families are impacted by:

- Extreme heatwaves, consecutive and severe droughts and wildfires
- Flooding due to sea-level rise, extreme rainfall and storms
- Melting of glaciers and snow
- Glacier melting, severe ecosystem changes

Climate change affects their lives, livelihoods and fundamental rights such as right to live, family, health, occupation and property.

The **Feschet Family (France)** has been in the lavender farming business for three generations. Due to the increasing frequency and severity of heatwaves and droughts, lavender farming is becoming increasingly difficult and is no longer fully viable.



Sendim and Caixeiro families (Portugal) work on agricultural land where they practice traditional farming. However, due to increasing temperatures and droughts associated to climate change, their working conditions are becoming increasingly difficult.



For decades, beekeeping has been the main occupation for the **Conceição family (Portugal)**. Rising temperatures have negative impacts on the production of honey, pollen, and wax which jeopardises the family's traditional occupation and livelihood.



The **Carvalho family (Portugal)** owns forested lands, where the father and son have been implementing sustainable forest management. In October 2017, their lands burned in an extraordinary forest fire, due to a dry and hot summer which the Portuguese authorities have linked to climate change.



The **Guyo family (Kenya)** is mostly worried about the health and life of their children under more frequent and extreme heatwaves. According to scientists, the rising temperatures in Kenya are attributable to climate change.



Sáminuorra, the Sami youth association in Sweden, is trying to raise awareness about the Saami and their culture. However, the consequences of climate change including warmer winters and wild fires in the Arctic circle threaten the entire Sami culture which is centered around reindeer husbandry.



The **Vlad family (Romanian Carpathians)** is facing the risk of losing their traditional family farm and their livestock due to increasing temperatures, droughts and lack of water in the region.



The **Elter family (Italy)** produces local organic food and manages a small hotel, which is fully dependent on tourism, in particular ice-climbing opportunities in the region. Rising temperatures and glacier melting put the family business at risk.



The **Qaloibau family's (Island of Vanua Levu, Republic of Fiji)** main activities are farming, fishing and tourist guiding. However, climate change related disasters such as worsening hurricanes, heat waves and coral bleaching have been a threat to vulnerable local communities, including the Qaloibau family.



The families are legally represented by Prof. Dr. Gerd Winter and Dr. Roda Verheyen (Germany) and the Barrister Hugo Leith (UK).



Climate Change in Germany: The Recktenwald family from Langeoog

Maike and Michael Recktenwald's family has been living on the Langeoog Island for four generations. They built a hotel and restaurant business from scratch over 20 years. However, the sea-level rise, storm surges and the resulting dune erosion endanger their family business and the island's drinking water supply. The wells on the island are at risk of being flooded by high tides and storm waves, which means that the underground freshwater will become salinized.

This lawsuit is not only about our family. It is about everyone's future. We initiated this case not only for our children, but also for future generations, who have a right to enjoy at least similar livelihoods as we had.

Maike Recktenwald