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Dear Gagan Mohindra MP,

**Children's Rights are being eroded by climate change – are you listening?**

Rickmansworth Park JMI is a Unicef Rights Respecting gold accredited school and we are this year's appointed Global Goals Group. Our task is to think about children's rights in the context of the global climate crisis, to inform people about rights and to protect children who do not have a voice from having their rights removed.

This year our focus is on climate change and how it is eroding children's rights. We have learned about *adaptations* that governments are being forced to do in preparation for climate catastrophes. None of them are great. Would you like to have to live on a floating island in the sea? Would you like to have to move your entire town or city up onto higher ground? Should we have to change the types of crops we grow or food we produce because the land is either flooded or too dry?

Surely *mitigations* should be at the forefront of your mind. We children are always talking about ways to slow down climate change. Are you? We think in the UK we should all be planting far more trees, we should ban single use plastics, increase the use of electric railways rather than using roads for transport, we should insist on the installation of solar panels on all new homes and we should help people to get their homes insulated so they use less energy.

Children are the future and we want it to be a healthy, happy one where we do not live in fear of climate disaster. We feel frustrated that we children are full of ideas but adults don't seem to care. We believe climate change should be a compulsory part of the curriculum. Don't you agree?

Did you know that children in south east Asia are losing their homes and schools due to flooding? Who will speak up for them if we in the wealthy West do not? Children across parts of the Caribbean are not getting access to clean water and fresh food due to horrific storm surges washing away the land. So many children there have lost their right to a safe home and a clean environment. We need to lead the world in climate solutions.

Here in the UK, due to storms and heavy rainfall, sewers are overflowing and pouring disgusting sewage into our rivers. Our local river, the Chess, is badly impacted. This affects UK children's right to a clean environment. Also, in periods of dry weather, our chalk streams are

drying up as we are taking out too much water, damaging important local eco-systems. There needs to be a plan to solve this.

Children in places of war and conflict across the world often do not have access to many of their basic rights such as fresh food, clean water, schooling and safe places to play. Do you think about them?

The world is full refugees and migrants, who are forced to move as their homes and livelihoods are under threat from any combination of the things mentioned above. Where are they to go? How will those children view the world as they grown up? They might think the adults did not do enough.

We need to know that you are listening to children, as it is our right. According to Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. We want to know what you are planning to do to slow the effects of climate change in the UK and how our country can lead the world in finding solutions. Otherwise, where is the world heading?

Yours sincerely

Ariel Carolina Jessica Honey Evie  
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Rickmansworth Park JMI School, Global Goals Group

