

# Coalition Files Landmark Petition to African Commission Demanding Climate Reparations and Justice for Future Generations

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TUCSON , AZ, UNITED STATES, May 21, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In an interview with Xraised, Fair Start Movement (FSM) activists discussed concerns regarding how current global systems affect justice, vulnerable populations—especially in Africa and other marginalized regions—and ecological sustainability.

FSM activists are filing a petition with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), urging it to take rights-based action to address corporate fraud and improve climate reparations, [environmental justice](#), and intergenerational equity specifically for African communities. The petition highlights systemic harms caused by global standards that undervalue children of color, particularly in the Global South, and seeks binding accountability from corporations involved in environmental and social injustices.

## Inequity by Design: Suffering and Injustice

It is observed that companies and other entities often externalize the ethical and legal costs of social and ecological harm as part of their business model — a practice called “permissible harm thresholds.” Companies may discount the value of lives, rights, or futures when calculating that externalizing harm is more profitable than internalizing responsibility. This acts as a shadow discount rate — applied not to money, but to the moral and legal weight of harm.

Risks such as litigation, reputational damage, or regulatory capture are treated as acceptable trade-offs. These decisions are often based on enforceability, public pressure, and regulatory limitations rather than ethical standards. For example, a vertically integrated dairy conglomerate may avoid paying for water pollution it causes, leaving costs to public health systems and local governments. It may also defer costs related to antibiotic resistance onto future public health infrastructure, and use subsidies that disadvantage small producers, affecting fair market competition. These factors are regarded as risk mitigation rather than moral failure, influencing business models as much as financial projections.

## Systemic Responsibility

Business models that incorporate “permissive harm” and similar mechanisms can conceal responsibility for climate crises, infant mortality, and violations of children’s rights — including

the devaluation of children of color and harms to their life opportunities and legal protections. Rights impacted may include democratic voting rights or governance derived from constituent empowerment.

### A New Standard of Legitimacy: Starting at Birth

The activists argue that systemic injustice is rooted in what Carter Dillard of FSM terms the “widely contested standard” or “equity fraud” — a framework justifying entitlements and government authority without securing children’s birthrights first. Rather than measuring justice from permissible harm thresholds protecting elite interests, FSM proposes an equity-based metric starting from zero, assessing harm to the most vulnerable — particularly infants and nonhuman animals — from birth.

“Legitimacy and equity start with fully measuring the harm,” says Dillard. “This is not charity or investment, but reparations. It’s about telling the truth from the beginning — from birth.”

### Flaws in Power Structures

The interview discusses how unjust standards are embedded in laws, definitions of fraud, enforcement methods, and cost-benefit analyses — aspects FSM argues are preempted by international law. Dillard explains in his CounterPunch essay that global systems often overlook the source of power — constituting authority through relational equity at birth. This concept serves as a practical blueprint for justice that challenges governments, academics, and philanthropists to shift from performative reforms to structural accountability.

If cost/benefit assessments do not start from zero, prioritizing infants and animals above [intergenerational justice thresholds](#), they risk being performative rather than effecting meaningful change.

### From Charity to Reparations: Empowering Through Birth

FSM’s approach ties all authority and wealth to measurable empowerment of children at birth. This includes building systems where entitlements derive from fertility delay, parental readiness, fair resource distribution, and geographic justice. This vision extends beyond [traditional social justice models](#), advocating a restructuring of how legitimacy is defined.

“We’re not just talking about improving a broken system,” Dillard notes. “We’re talking about legitimizing the very foundations of society.” FSM offers a disclosure and compensation framework placing children’s sovereignty at the center of national sovereignty.

### Linking Animal Rights, Racial Justice, and Ecological Survival

FSM asserts that true animal liberation and racial justice are interconnected. Many activists

unintentionally perpetuate injustice by addressing symptoms rather than root causes. Flawed standards can undermine both animal and human rights and may benefit elites at the expense of those activists seek to protect.

“Most animal rights activists didn’t choose animals over racial justice,” FSM explains. “They were misled into serving neither.” This critique encourages advocates to align methods with moral goals to build equitable systems.

### Taking Action Against Corporate Abuse

FSM calls for accountability from corporations like Coca-Cola and Fairlife in light of recent cruelty and exploitation reports. FSM urges transparency about impacts on animals, future generations, and the climate. This advocacy challenges government, philanthropy, and corporations to adopt transparent, equitable, and future-focused practices.

### Fair Start: A Tool for Measuring Real Impact

The Fair Start framework allows governments, organizations, and individuals to recalibrate impact based on empowerment of children at birth. FSM states this baseline of equity is essential to building just systems rather than perpetuating harm under new terminology.

“The act of telling the truth about our starting point — admitting the use of flawed standards — is what legitimates future relations,” says Dillard. “Without that, we’re just rearranging power for our benefit.”

### Foundations Must Confront Their Role in Climate Injustice

FSM critiques philanthropic foundations for enabling environmental harm under the guise of charity. Many sustain inherited privilege while claiming to support justice and sustainability. Without acknowledging their role in ecological degradation and intergenerational inequity, they perpetuate climate injustice. True equity requires redistributing power beginning with prioritizing future generations and the planet.

Foundations are urged to ask: Are we empowering future generations or preserving influence? FSM contends no philanthropic effort can be sustainable without a true fair start.

### Empowering Children Through Birthright Equity

FSM’s insight on climate justice and birthright equity calls for rethinking freedom standards and their effects on vulnerable populations. The group advocates empowerment from birth, asserting societal legitimacy should stem from equitable treatment of all children, regardless of race or socioeconomic status. Current economic models discount future lives, sustaining systemic inequities benefiting wealthy few at marginalized groups’ expense.

Addressing foundational disparities aims to foster individual and political autonomy from birth.

## Rethinking Birthright Wealth and Systemic Exploitation

FSM notes many environmental and social issues, including climate change, are linked to disregard for infants' and animals' rights. The absence of a birthrights-centered framework has allowed unchecked exploitation tied to birthright wealth and privilege.

FSM urges governments, activists, and philanthropists to adopt inclusive, rights-based policies ensuring children are born with opportunities for self-determination and political empowerment.

## The Fork in the Road: Legitimacy or Collapse

The conversation concludes with a call to action: one path preserves wealth created through flawed standards, fueling climate breakdown and social instability; the other reorients wealth to build just, legitimate nations.

"Children should be born as democratic ends, not economic means," FSM emphasizes.

## Next Moves: Mobilizing Legal Action for Climate Justice

### Filing a Landmark Petition with the African Commission

FSM activists are filing a petition with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), requesting the Commission address corporate fraud, enforce climate reparations, and uphold environmental justice and intergenerational equity throughout Africa.

### Connecting Corporate Accountability and Climate Reparations

This petition complements a U.S. federal class action lawsuit against Fairlife (<https://fairstartmovement.org/coca-cola-and-fairlife-recently-caught-engaging-in-horrific-cruelty-should-tell-the-truth/>), a Coca-Cola-owned dairy brand accused of false sustainability claims. The coalition highlights how deceptive standards allow corporations to evade liability for climate harms disproportionately affecting children of color in the Global South.

## Challenging the "Permissible Harm" Model

Activists argue the current global economic model of "permissible harm" is rooted in systemic inequities — including white supremacy and economic exploitation — that undervalue African lives and children worldwide. These flawed standards enable corporate greenwashing and perpetuate environmental and social injustice.

## Calling for Binding Accountability and Child Equity Recognition

The coalition urges ACHPR to adopt binding accountability mechanisms and legally recognize child equity as foundational for environmental dignity and survival (<https://mahb.stanford.edu/library-item/being-free-means-getting-climate-reparations-right-but-not-everyone-is-onboard-oped/>). This framework prioritizes protecting African generations now and in the future.

### Voices from the Movement: A Call for Justice

“We are the echoes of ancestors who dreamed of freedom despite enduring historic injustices,” said Zahara Nabakooza, FSM Children’s Rights Lead. “Equality isn’t kindness—it’s a debt long overdue, paid only when every Black soul walks this earth unafraid, unburdened, and fully seen.”

To follow the full interview and explore more, visit the Fair Start Movement (<https://fairstartmovement.org/>) and listen to the full podcast on Spotify (<https://spotifycreators-web.app.link/e/vSf2IAKcERb>).

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