

Feb. 24, 2021: For immediate release



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**Our Children's Trust Asks to Intervene to Support Portuguese Youth In  
Climate Change Lawsuit Against 33 Countries in European Court of Human Rights**

Our Children's Trust (OCT), the nonprofit law firm behind [Juliana v. United States](#) and similar climate change lawsuits, has signed on in support of six young Portuguese citizens who are taking 33 countries to the European Court of Human Rights for contributing to the climate catastrophe in violation of their human rights.

As potential intervenors in the case brought by [Global Legal Action Network](#) (GLAN), OCT has asked the Court for permission to provide its expertise on the climate science that supports judicial intervention to protect the rights of the Portuguese children who brought the case. The youth plaintiffs there are being impacted by climate change in ways similar to the young people OCT represents, particularly in suffering from record-breaking heat waves and devastating forest fires.

The Portugal case is also inspired by OCT's work, particularly the landmark case of *Juliana v. United States*, one of the first ever legal actions to link the important issues of climate change and human rights. OCT has spent over a decade providing strategic, campaign-based legal services to young people in order to secure their binding and enforceable legal rights to a healthy atmosphere and a stable climate based on the best available science. OCT works to develop legally accurate, science-based, and coherent jurisprudence in courts and tribunals around the world on the topic of children's rights as they relate to climate change.

OCT's work is supported by top climate scientists who warn that allowing global warming up to 1.5°C, as is often targeted by politicians, is dangerous and will not stave off catastrophic impacts. Children, such as the six Portuguese youth, are already suffering from the effects of the climate crisis at just 1.1°C (the average global warming in 2020). These injuries will only become more severe if global warming is allowed to increase to 1.5°C in the coming years. The best available science today prescribes that global atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations must be restored to no more than 350 parts per million by 2100 (approximately 1°C of warming) in order to stabilize Earth's energy balance, restore the climate system, and ensure a safe and viable planet for our children and grandchildren.

OCT hopes to inform the European Court of Human Rights about the legal responsibility of countries to act on climate change in keeping with this scientific urgency. The Court will make a decision on the request to intervene in the coming weeks.

“We are pleased that the European Court of Human Rights has decided to review the merits of these children’s legal claims. Courts have a very important role to play in protecting the fundamental rights of children and we hope to be able to provide the Court with arguments as to how best available science, not political convenience, should serve as the standard of protection for children’s rights,” said Andrea Rodgers, Senior Litigation Attorney with OCT.

This is the first time that OCT has requested leave to intervene in a case before the European Court of Human Rights.

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Our Children’s Trust is the world’s only nonprofit public interest law firm that provides strategic, campaign-based legal services to youth from diverse backgrounds to secure their legal rights to a safe climate. We work to protect the Earth’s climate system for present and future generations by representing young people in global legal efforts to secure their binding and enforceable legal rights to a healthy atmosphere and stable climate, based on the best available science. Our Children’s Trust represents the youth plaintiffs behind the landmark federal constitutional climate lawsuit, [\*Juliana v. United States\*](#), which was brought by 21 young Americans and the youth-led climate organization, Earth Guardians, and represents and/or supports youth in state cases like [\*Held v. State of Montana\*](#), [\*Sagoonick v. State of Alaska\*](#), [\*Aji P. v. State of Washington\*](#) and [\*Reynolds v. State of Florida\*](#), as well as global cases like [\*La Rose v. Her Majesty the Queen\*](#) (Canada) and [\*Jóvenes v. Gobierno de México\*](#).