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Our Children's Trust Attorneys, Climate Analyst Publish Article in *Strasbourg Observers* Underscoring Importance of Best Available Science in Global Climate Litigation

In the context of ongoing dangerous climate change, human rights can only be fully protected if nations act in accordance with the best available science. As the Grand Chamber in the European Court of Human Rights hears its first-ever climate-related cases this spring and fall - *Verein KlimaSeniorinnen Schweiz and Others v. Switzerland*, *Carême v. France*, and *Duarte Agostinho and Others v. Portugal and Others* - a [new article](#) published today in *Strasbourg Observers* argues that courts hearing and relying on best available science in climate cases is the key to ensuring human rights are protected.

“Best available science” means the most up-to-date scientific research that maximizes the quality, objectivity, and integrity of information, including statistical information; uses multiple peer-reviewed and publicly available data; and clearly documents and communicates risks and uncertainties in the scientific basis for its conclusions.

Kelly Matheson, Deputy Director of Global Climate Litigation; Paul Rink, Global Staff Attorney; and Anders Carlson, Energy and Climate Analyst, all of Our Children's Trust, co-authored the piece, [Verein KlimaSeniorinnen, Carême, and Duarte Agostinho: How Science Can Save Humanity](#), outlining not only the human rights significance of the ongoing global climate crisis and its relevance to these three cases, but also clarifying how [the best available science indicates that the Paris Agreement temperature targets of 1.5°C and 2.0°C are inadequate to protect human and ecological wellbeing](#). According to the article, the true scientific standard necessary to protect human rights on a global scale is limiting carbon dioxide levels to 350 parts per million (ppm), which would then stabilize the Earth Energy Imbalance (EEI). EEI is what climate scientists describe as [the “most critical” metric for determining “the prospects for continued global warming and climate change.”](#)

“We sit at a precipice where it is no longer enough to do our best,” the article reads. “We must instead do what is required. And we know the solution. Scientists across the globe have fastidiously documented that the temperature targets set forth in the Paris Agreement not only fail to protect rights but put the very rights Applicants seek to exercise at dire risk.”

Read the full article on [Strasbourg Observers](#).

Related reading: [Global Organisations Provide Evidence to European Court of Human Rights: 1.5°C Climate Target Too Weak on Human Rights](#)

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Our Children's Trust is the world's only nonprofit public interest law firm that exclusively 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 safe climate, based on the best available science. www.ourchildrenstrust.org