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**Announcing “Overturning 1.5°C: Calling for the Science Turn in Rights-Based Climate Litigation”**

*Our Children's Trust, in collaboration with Open Global Rights, launch new series aiming to dispel the myth that 1.5°C is a safe benchmark to cease global warming*

**Amsterdam, Netherlands**—Today Our Children's Trust, in collaboration with [Open Global Rights](#), an independent platform housed at and supported by the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice and the Future of Rights Program at New York University School of Law, announced the launch of [Overturning 1.5°C: Calling for the Science Turn in Rights-based Climate Litigation](#). This new series, written by climate experts, litigators, scholars, and leaders around the globe, seeks to inform and educate the public on the fallacy of 1.5°C as a “safe” benchmark to cease global warming and prevent further human-induced climate change tragedies.

**Background**

In 2015, politically appointed negotiators from nearly 200 countries met in Paris to discuss how to prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system. These representatives signed the Paris Agreement, recognizing that an effective response to the threat of climate change must be based on the best available science. Then, contradicting this commitment, they embedded pseudo-scientific temperature targets limiting global heating to 1.5°C to 2.0°C into the Agreement.

Years later, the global community - from lawyers to journalists, politicians to human rights defenders - still recite the inaccurate claim, “Holding warming to 1.5°C will avoid catastrophic climate change.” **This is false.** With average global temperature increases already at ~1.1°C to 1.3°C, torrential rainstorms, floods, wildfires, and heatwaves are killing people and displacing communities worldwide. Even the UN's own scientific body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, has expressly stated that 1.5°C is “not safe.”

## The Series

This global series explores how heating up to, and remaining at, the Paris target of 1.5°C violates the most basic of human rights, leaving billions in the crosshairs of climate disaster. This series further makes the case for overturning 1.5°C as the proxy legal standard for climate advocacy and instead, urgently initiating a corrective turn to science.

The first of this ten-part series, "[Overturning 1.5°C: Give science a chance](#)," by Kelly Matheson, Deputy Director of Global Climate Litigation at Our Children's Trust, published today. The rest will publish periodically and can be found by visiting [Open Global Right's website](#) as well as Our Children's Trust [Global Legal Submissions and Publications page](#). Other authors include Dr. Steven Running (who recently testified as an expert witness on behalf of the 16 youth plaintiffs who secured historic victory in [Held v. State of Montana](#)), as well as Juan Auz and Phillip Paiement, to name just a few.

"Journalists face so many challenges today in covering climate crises, especially parsing political and corporate propaganda intended to undermine the urgent need to transition off fossil fuels to renewable energy sources," Matheson said. "It is our hope journalists and news outlets can draw upon this series as a fresh resource as they continue their work to tell the truth about climate change, and effective actions to address this accelerating crisis, going forward."

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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. Globally, we support youth-led climate cases in front of national courts, regional human rights courts, and UN bodies. [www.ourchildrenstrust.org](http://www.ourchildrenstrust.org)*

*Open Global Rights, a leading online opinion portal in the human rights field, believes that human rights works best when its many actors converse, learn, and innovate across geographic, linguistic, and disciplinary lines. Open Global Rights gathers those voices, providing a space where different ideas and experiences enrich our understanding of what human rights are and what they can be in the work of creating a more just and sustainable world. We regularly publish some of the leading names in human rights academia and practice, and also pride ourselves on amplifying voices from all corners of the globe, having published authors from more than 90 countries in 35 languages since our launch in 2013. [www.openglobalrights.org](http://www.openglobalrights.org)*