

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

AND THE CLIMATE

EMERGENCY IN THE UK

The climate and biodiversity emergency poses severe challenges to reproductive, maternal, infant and child health.

In the UK, we are already seeing the significant impacts of the climate emergency on women's ability to conceive; sustain healthy pregnancies; and birth and parent their children in safety and health.

We also know that women facing poverty, inequality and disadvantage, and those from Black and Brown communities disproportionately bear the impacts of these factors.

Dr Ranees Thakar
President, Royal College
of Obstetricians and
Gynaecologists

"There is no more room for complacency. This is not a problem for the future, or for those in countries traditionally viewed as vulnerable to extreme weather. The effects of climate change on women's health are being felt here in the UK, now."

Reproductive justice

Developed by Black and Indigenous women in the US in the 1990s, the reproductive justice framework provides an invaluable lens through which to understand and address the climate and biodiversity emergency.

The reproductive justice framework centres around four core human rights:

The right to bodily autonomy

The right to have children

The right to not have children

The right to parent in safe and sustainable communities

These fundamental rights are challenged by many aspects of the climate emergency:

Air pollution

Harmful chemicals

Extreme heat

Food insecurity

Climate anxiety

Climate migration

Decisions to not have children

Sexual and reproductive healthcare

Over-population narratives

How can you get involved?

- 1 Read** and share our paper on reproductive justice and the climate emergency in the UK.
- 2 Support** campaigns and initiatives that focus on the intersection of reproductive justice and the climate emergency, including:
 - *Wen's Environmental and Green Baby campaigns;*
 - *Global Black Maternal Health's Black Child, Clean Air campaign;*
 - *The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists' Women's Voices Involvement Panel.*
- 3 Join** Birth Companions, Wen and the Women's Budget Group in supporting the Feminist Green New Deal (FGND)'s roadmap to a sustainable and equal UK economy.
- 4 Advocate** for the addition of a commitment to reproductive justice in other key policy initiatives relating to the climate emergency.
- 5 Review** and improve individual organisational policy and practice on sustainability.
- 6 Join** together to organise and campaign across the women's and health sectors on environmental issues.

"It is vital that we all face the issues, call out those who refuse to act, and relentlessly talk about the real-life impacts on women's lives. Only then can we collectively make a difference!"

Dr Ranees Thakar
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Wen.

