



**Mary Robinson
Foundation
Climate Justice**

Trinity College, 6 South Leinster Street, Dublin 2, Ireland
t +353 (0)1 661 8427 | e info@mrfcj.org | www.mrfcj.org

Hon. Roberto Eugenio T. Cadiz
Focal Commissioner
Human Rights and Climate Change Investigation
By Email: atty.robertocadiz@yahoo.com

04/11/16

Dear Mr Cadiz,

Re: Petition to the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines, Requesting for Investigation of the Responsibility of the Carbon Majors for Human Rights Violations or Threats of Violations Resulting from the Impacts of Climate Change

I write to you from the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice (the Foundation) in relation to the petition before your Commission ‘Requesting for Investigation of the Responsibility of the Carbon Majors for Human Rights Violations or Threats of Violations Resulting from the Impacts of Climate Change’.

In this respect I wanted to offer the Foundation’s assistance in building clarity around the concept of ‘climate justice’, which it is my understanding is included as a critical element of the petition. The Foundation has been working to build a shared space for information and knowledge-sharing on climate justice, accessible to all, as well as acting as a source of solidarity for those concerned about climate change since its inception in 2010.

Climate justice links human rights and development to achieve a human-centred approach, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable people and sharing the burdens and benefits of climate change and its impacts equitably and fairly. Climate justice is informed by science, responds to science and acknowledges the need for equitable stewardship of the world’s resources. You can find more information on the principles of climate justice on our website.¹ I would particularly like to draw your attention to the principle ‘respect and protect human rights’ as well as our publication ‘Rights for Action’² which is designed to assist policy makers in designing climate change related actions that fully respect human rights and may be of use to your current petition.

Climate justice is now an established narrative within numerous international processes. This was most clearly demonstrated in 2015 when the term was included in the preamble of the Paris Climate Change Agreement. The function of climate justice is to inform good and people centred rights policy. The inclusion of human rights in climate change policy is widely

¹ <http://www.mrfcj.org/principles-of-climate-justice/>

² <http://www.mrfcj.org/resources/rights-for-action-putting-people-at-the-centre-of-action-on-climate-change/>



Mary Robinson Foundation Climate Justice

Trinity College, 6 South Leinster Street, Dublin 2, Ireland
t +353 (0)1 661 8427 | e info@mrfcj.org | www.mrfcj.org

accepted by States, this has been demonstrated in research conducted by the Foundation into the reporting undertaken by States.³

Finally we would note that there is significant resources available from our colleagues, the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre,⁴ in regards to the links between climate justice and business. This includes information on the roles and responsibilities of business to inform and enact human rights based climate policy.

The Foundation would be happy to assist further in providing any information the Commission deems necessary to assist in their decision on this petition.

Yours sincerely,

Celine Clarke
Director
Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice

CC by email:

Hon. Jose Luis Martin C. Gascon
Chairman
chairgascon.chr@gmail.com

Hon. Karen S. Gomez Dumpit
Commissioner
kgdumpit@yahoo.com

Hon. Gwendolyn Ll. Pimentel-Gana
Commissioner
gpgchroffice@gmail.com

Hon. Leah C. Tanodra-Armamento
Commissioner
chrp.leaharmamento@gmail.com

³ <http://www.mrfcj.org/resources/incorporating-human-rights-into-climate-action-2/>

⁴ <https://business-humanrights.org/en/climate-justice>

Board of Trustees

Tom Arnold	former CEO of Concern Worldwide
Frank Convery	Director of the Environmental Systems Institute, University College Dublin
Conor Gearty	Professor of Human Rights Law, London School of Economics
Laurence Gill	Head of Department of Civil, Structural & Environmental Engineering, Trinity College Dublin
Hadeel Ibrahim	Executive Director, Mo Ibrahim Foundation
Jennifer McElwain	Professor of Plant Palaeobiology and Palaeoecology, University College Dublin
Mary Robinson	former President of Ireland, President of the Foundation
David Went	Chairman of the Irish Times Ltd, Chairman of Trinity Foundation