


HOPE FOR CHILDREN THROUGH CLIMATE JUSTICE



LEGAL TOOLS TO HOLD FINANCIERS ACCOUNTABLE

Highlights from a handbook for accelerating climate solutions



Strategic litigation is using the law to bring change that helps more people, not just those directly involved in the case. It challenges unfair policies, holds powerful actors accountable, and can shape laws or public opinion. People and groups use it to fight injustices like discrimination, environmental harm, or human rights violations.

Isaiah 1:17 (NIV): 'Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.'

Burning fossil fuels is the primary cause of greenhouse gas emissions, leading to global warming that has devastated communities and livelihoods. Children suffer the most, facing health risks, displacement, and an uncertain future, yet they have little political power to drive change.

Our faith calls us to speak truth to power and to seize every available legal measure to protect our planet and its inhabitants.



Proverbs 31:8-9

'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.'

The urgency of this moment demands that we engage with the law not merely as a tool, but as a moral imperative to safeguard human lives and uphold justice.

Despite decades of advocacy, greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise dramatically, driven largely by the relentless expansion of fossil fuel industries. In a bid to accompany advocacy efforts, it is important to advance climate litigation.

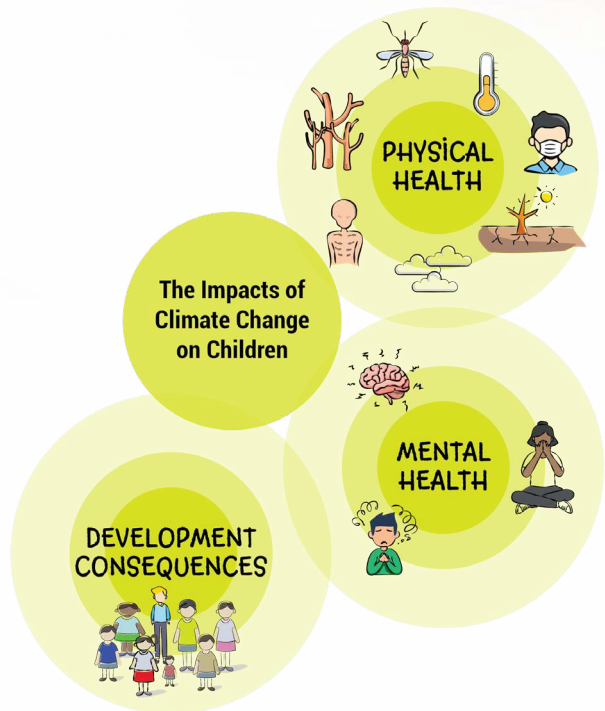
The aim: To create hope by fulfilling churches' mandate to shift social and corporate behaviour.



The focus: Accountability for financial institutions/actors to reduce fossil fuel investments and promote cleaner energy alternatives.

Caring for the well-being of others, especially children, is central to religious teachings.

In Matthew 18: 6, Jesus explains the importance of protecting children and warns against causing them harm. However, the climate emergency is already causing harm to children all over the world.



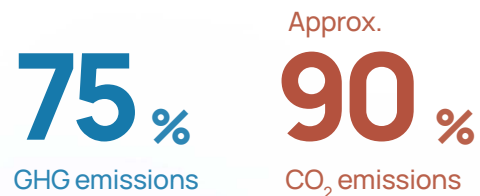
Why Strategic Climate Litigation?

It drives systemic change by reducing financial flows to fossil fuel companies, which decreases fossil fuel extraction and consumption, ultimately lowering greenhouse gas emissions.



Why Focus on Financial Actors?

Fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and gas, are responsible for more than¹

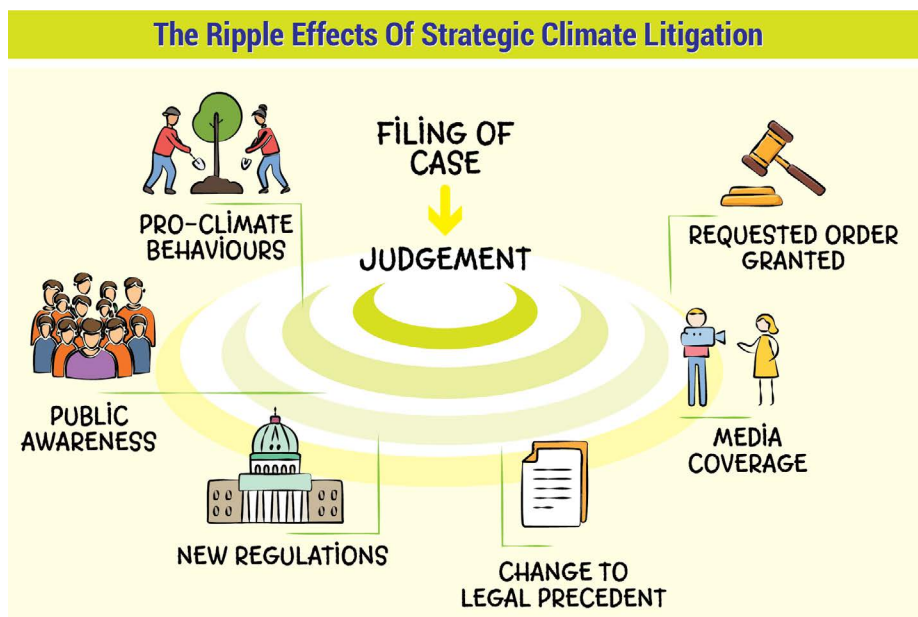


Consequently, the climate emergency is a problem driven by the expansion of fossil fuels.

¹ Causes and Effects of Climate Change," United Nations website, <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/causes-effects-climate-change>


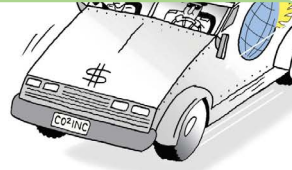
How we can do it:

There are various legal strategies available at domestic, regional, and international levels. While these options may seem overwhelming, the Hope for Children Handbook (see page 17) offers guidance to help you identify the approach that best fits your context.



General practical steps for engaging in climate litigation:



- 1 Understand Legal Standing:** Determine your eligibility to bring a case.
- 2 Build Support Networks:** Collaborate with legal experts and climate scientists.
- 3 Gather Evidence and Prepare:** Gather strong evidence linking financial actions to climate impacts, and clearly define your goal—policy change, financial compensation, or emissions reductions.
- 4 Engage Publicly and Navigate Legal Processes:** Use campaigns to amplify the case and garner public support.


“

If I see someone driving into a group of innocent bystanders, I can't, as a person of faith, simply wait for the catastrophe, then comfort the wounded and bury the dead. I must try to wrestle the steering wheel out of the hands of the driver.

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World Council of Churches



A Call to Faith-Based Action

Today, strategic climate litigation has become a necessary measure to save lives. By holding financial actors accountable and advocating for systemic change, Christians can fulfill their stewardship mandate, ensuring a thriving planet for generations to come.



Micah 6:8






Act justly, love mercy
and walk humbly

Get in touch with the team;

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