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Representation of Future Generations in United Kingdom Policy-Making

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Highlights:

- An All-party Parliamentary Group on Future Generations should be formed.
- Legislation should be passed containing an obligation to include the long-term risks of any Government Bill in the accompanying Explanatory Note.
- The various futures research institutions and think tanks should cooperate to form an expert advisory panel with a mandate to influence policy.
- If and when a British Bill of Rights is passed, the opportunity should be taken to include intergenerational rights. More work would be needed on the precise legal formulation of such rights.
- In the longer term, political momentum should be translated into a formal Select Committee on Future Generations.
- Any Future Generations institution should be explicitly mandated to consider existential risks arising from technological development, in addition to environmental sustainability.
- Civil society needs to mobilise to form a strong cross-party support for representation of future generations.

Abstract

Global existential and catastrophic risks, particularly those arising from technological developments, present challenges for intergenerational justice. We aim to present a solutions-based approach to the challenge of intergenerational inequality. We examine options for representing future generations in our present policymaking structures, drawing on case studies from Singapore, Finland, Hungary, Israel, Scotland and Wales. We derive several factors which contribute to the success of some of these

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