



Pope calls for sweeping action on climate - calling attention to *our* moral responsibility to protect those most vulnerable including children

CEHN welcomes the release of Pope Francis's eagerly anticipated encyclical on climate change and the environment, which urges a new dialogue on climate change and frames the issue as one of justice and morality. In the 184 page document, Pope Francis calls for swift action – provides the scientific basis that climate change is happening now, that it is largely human caused and that those most vulnerable – the poor, children, elderly, and the developing world are the most impacted.

The Pope states that the Encyclical is a letter to everyone living on the planet and is suggesting dialogue across many different sectors – business and religion for example - across countries, and across peoples and communities. He offers solutions on the individual level (such as taking public transportation and recycling) to the need for sweeping changes in politics, policies and political will. In short, he is calling for a cultural revolution.

The Pope pays particular attention to children and the consequences of climate change on future generations in a section titled "Justice between the Generations." Here he quotes Portuguese bishops: "The environment...is on loan to each generation, which must then hand it on to the next."

The Encyclical and the Pope's approaching visit to the US (in September) cannot be timelier with several upcoming conferences including negotiations in Paris. There is hope that the Papal Encyclical –with its reframing of the issue and provision of moral leadership–will be a catalyst for more positive action on climate change, and protection of children now and in the future.

To read the full text, visit: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

"What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?"

- Pope Francis, 2015 Pope's Encyclical on the environment and climate change