



# FUTURE GENERATIONS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Cambridge students join forces with MPs to launch APPG combating political short-termism**

Parliamentarians, academics and industry leaders will launch the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Future Generations on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January in Parliament. The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG), created by Cambridge students in October 2017 and chaired by Daniel Zeichner MP, aims to challenge political short-termism and raise the profile of the long-term interests of future generations.

Seventeen other MPs and Peers from across the political spectrum join Zeichner, including Lord Martin Rees. The APPG's Secretariat is run by students at the University of Cambridge, who catalyzed the APPG's creation following a research project on the representation of future generations in other countries' political systems.

### **Lord Martin Rees, the Astronomer Royal, said:**

"Future generations are the ultimate unrepresented constituency. Many of today's children will still be alive in the 22nd century.

"When we realise how much we owe to the heritage left by our forebears, it is shameful how short-term most decision-making is.

"This APPG seeks to focus on the longer-term, so that future generations aren't left to cope with a depleted and more dangerous world."

### **Natalie Jones, Cambridge student and Secretariat co-coordinator, said:**

"Immediate, pressing political issues are certainly in no short supply, but there is a risk that equally important longer-term issues are not high enough on our priority list.

"Future generations have neither a voice nor a vote - this group in Parliament is working towards changing that."

## **Daniel Zeichner, Chair of the APPG for Future Generations**

“In our fast-changing world it is important for Parliamentarians to be forward-thinking; combating short-termism is difficult due to the nature of changing politics and governments, but the all-party group is a great way to tackle this. Cambridge, with its cutting edge research and academic activity, is the ideal base for this work.”

### **Notes to Editors**

For additional information, contact Natalie Jones,  
07873225106, [secretariat@appgfuturegenerations.com](mailto:secretariat@appgfuturegenerations.com)

The launch event will be Monday 22 January, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, in the House of Commons Jubilee Room. It features the Head of Cambridge’s Politics Dept., Prof. Runciman; Former Hungarian Commissioner for Future Generations, Dr Szabó; and “One of the most eminent moral philosophers in the world today”, Baroness O’Neill on: 'If future generations could have a voice, they would say...'

An article by Natalie Jones giving more background is [available here](#).

A free-to-use photo of the students and Lord Rees is [available here](#).

The initial paper exploring options for representation of future generations is [available here](#).

An exclusive op-ed is available upon request.

The Secretariat is hosted at Cambridge University’s Centre for the Study of Existential Risk (CSER), an interdisciplinary research group dedicated to the study and mitigation of risks that could lead to human extinction or civilisational collapse.

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