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Facts about our ecological crisis are incontrovertible. We must take action

Humans cannot continue to violate the fundamental laws of nature or science with impunity, say 94 signatories including Dr Alison Green and Molly Scott Cato MEP

We the undersigned represent diverse academic disciplines, and the views expressed here are those of the signatories and not their organisations. While our academic perspectives and expertise may differ, we are united on one point: we will not tolerate the failure of this or any other government to take robust and emergency action in respect of the worsening ecological crisis. The science is clear, the facts are incontrovertible, and it is unconscionable to us that our children and grandchildren should have to bear the terrifying brunt of an unprecedented disaster of our own making.

We are in the midst of the sixth mass extinction, with about 200 species becoming extinct each day. Humans cannot continue to violate the fundamental laws of nature or of science with impunity. If we continue on our current path, the future for our species is bleak.

Our government is complicit in ignoring the precautionary principle, and in failing to acknowledge that infinite economic growth on a planet with finite resources is non-viable. Instead, the government irresponsibly promotes rampant consumerism and free-market
fundamentalism, and allows greenhouse gas emissions to rise. Earth Overshoot Day (the date when humans have used up more resources from nature than the planet can renew in the entire year) falls ever earlier each year (1 August in 2018).

When a government wilfully abrogates its responsibility to protect its citizens from harm and to secure the future for generations to come, it has failed in its most essential duty of stewardship. The “social contract” has been broken, and it is therefore not only our right, but our moral duty to bypass the government’s inaction and flagrant dereliction of duty, and to rebel to defend life itself.

We therefore declare our support for Extinction Rebellion, launching on 31 October 2018. We fully stand behind the demands for the government to tell the hard truth to its citizens. We call for a Citizens’ Assembly to work with scientists on the basis of the extant evidence and in accordance with the precautionary principle, to urgently develop a credible plan for rapid total decarbonisation of the economy.

**Dr Alison Green** Pro vice-chancellor (academic), Arden University, National Director (UK)

**Scientists Warning**

**Professor Joy Carter** Vice-chancellor, University of Winchester

**Dr Rowan Williams**

**Danny Dorling** Halford Mackinder professor of geography, University of Oxford

**Jem Bendell** Professor of sustainability leadership, University of Cumbria

**Dr Ian Gibson** Former Chair, House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee

**Dr Susie Orbach** Consultant psychoanalyst, The Balint Consultancy

**David Drew MP**, Shadow minister (environment, food and rural affairs)

**Professor Molly Scott Cato MEP**

**Shahrar Ali PhD**, Green Party home affairs spokesperson

**Peter Belton** Professor emeritus of chemistry, University of East Anglia

**Dr Simon Boxley** Centre for Climate Change Education & Communication, University of Winchester

**Erik Buitenhuis** Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, University of East Anglia

**Dave Humphreys** Professor of environmental policy, Open University

**Andrew Simms** Centre for Global Political Economy, University of Sussex; NEF

**Arran Stibbe** Professor of ecological linguistics, University of Gloucestershire

**Dr Rupert Read** Reader in philosophy, University of East Anglia

**Richard House PhD (Env sci)** Chartered psychologist, Stroud

**Ronald Barnett** Emeritus professor of higher education, University College London Institute of Education

**Emeritus Professor Michael Bassey** Nottingham Trent University

**Professor Woody Caan** Editor, Journal of Public Mental Health

**Claire Callender**, Professor of higher education, Birkbeck and UCL Institute of Education

**Simon Capewell MD DSc**, Professor of clinical epidemiology, University of Liverpool

**Professor Andrew Cooper** Tavistock & Portman NHS Foundation Trust; University of East London

**Emeritus Professor Tricia David**

**Windy Dryden** Emeritus professor of psychotherapeutic studies, Goldsmiths University of London

**Suman Fernando** Honorary professor, London Metropolitan University

**Professor Mark Ford**, University College London

**Professor Gary Francione**

**Harvey Goldstein** Professor of social statistics, University of Bristol

**Jonathan Gosling** Emeritus professor of leadership studies, University of Exeter

**Paul Hoggett** Emeritus professor of social policy, UWE, Bristol
Wendy Hollway Emeritus professor of psychology, Open University
Professor John Hughes University of Gloucestershire
Professor Simon Kelley University of Edinburgh
Adrian Kendry Visiting Chair in economics and security, University of Winchester
Karin Lesnık-Oberstein Professor of critical theory, University of Reading
Del Loewenthal Emeritus professor in psychotherapy, University of Roehampton
Professor Mark Maslin FRGS, FRSA University College London
Martin Milton Professor of counselling psychology, Regents University London
Professor Dany Nobus Brunel University London
Professor Jayne Osgood Middlesex University, mother, feminist, activist
Professor Ann Phoenix University of London
Richard Pring Emeritus professor, University of Oxford
Peter Reason Professor emeritus, University of Bath
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Prem Sikka Professor of accounting and finance, University of Sheffield
Professor Ernesto Spinelli ES Associates, London
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Brian Thorne Emeritus professor (counselling), University of East Anglia
Frederick Toates Emeritus professor of biological psychology, Open University
Dr Steve Tombs Professor of criminology, Open University
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Dr Christine Parkinson Retired biologist, Scientists for Global Responsibility
Dr Volker Patent CPsychol, lecturer and coach
Dr Gerald Power PhD, management consultant
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Dr Jay Watts Consultant clinical psychologist
Dr David Whitebread Retired senior member, Homerton College, Cambridge

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