

IN THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT OF LAW COURT  
BETWEEN:

THE BABY BOOMERS

v.

GENERATIONS X AND Y

(the ‘collective of ungrateful miscreants’)

## DEFENCE STATEMENT

The Indictment charges the Baby Boomers with seven offences under eight separate instruments. .

The Baby Boomers are disappointed that public resources are being expended on bringing these spurious charges. The Baby Boomers would have liked to see Generations X and Y channel their resources towards more productive endeavors.

The Baby Boomers note that an English court lacks jurisdiction to hear claims brought under many of the international instruments in question. Nevertheless, the Baby Boomers address the substance of the charges leveled against them. They do not wish to hide behind technical points.

### Charges 1 to 3

First, the Baby Boomers are baffled by the charges in relation to climate change. Generations X and Y have the Baby Boomers to thank for bringing the issue of climate change to global attention. Among many other celebrated campaigners, the founders of Greenpeace are all Baby Boomers as is avid environmentalist Al Gore. Moreover, Baby Boomer politicians (notably Bill Clinton and Tony Blair) were the first to make the environment a priority of their domestic and foreign policies.

It can only be reasonable to find the Baby Boomers were on notice regarding the impact of human activities on the environment from around 1988. Shortly thereafter the international community of Baby Boomers took important steps to mitigate the effect of climate change and ever since have continued to campaign vigorously for increased environmental protection.

Further, Generations X and Y have not brought this claim with clean hands. Generations X and Y show disregard for climate change as they enjoy living a culture of short-haul flights and gas-guzzling road-trips.

With regards to the climate rights of indigenous peoples, the Baby Boomers were instrumental in securing a United Nations framework for such rights by signing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007. The Baby Boomers also recognized that the right to development is in conflict with the aim of reducing the emission of greenhouse gases. Thus, the Baby Boomers in developed countries agreed to shoulder more of the burden for reducing greenhouse emissions than those of developing countries.

### Charge 4 and 5: standards of living

The Baby Boomers are equally baffled by this charge. The Baby Boomers inherited a world laid to waste by war and rebuilt it. The Baby Boomers strengthened the welfare state to provide security for all. The Baby Boomers will not leave behind a utopia; they will leave behind a world better than the one they inherited.

The Baby Boomers presided over an era of economic growth and overall standards of living around the world have increased exponentially since the 1970s.

The Baby Boomers cannot be held solely responsible for the financial crisis. In many ways the economic conditions leading up to the crisis were a product of deregulation policies initiated by Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan. Moreover, financial crises have been a recurring feature of market economies at least since the South Sea Bubble of 1720, if not before. To this extent, the Baby Boomers deserve considerable credit for dragging the UK out of the most recent recession; Baby Boomer spending is playing a crucial part in boosting the economic recovery.

The Baby Boomers are criticised for putting pressure on health services. The Baby Boomers cannot be blamed for exercising their right to life.

#### Charge 6: Gender Discrimination

The Baby Boomers have taken appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the workplace. The percentage of women in work has increased significantly and consistently since the 1970s. The female Baby Boomers have pioneered the increase of women in the workplace with the result that women today enjoy more employment opportunities than previous generations. The realisation of complete gender parity is a progressive project and the Baby Boomers cannot alone be held responsible for the fact it has not yet fully achieved.

#### Charge 7: The 'War on Terror'

It cannot be denied that there have been leaders who have pursued an illogical war on terror. These aberrations, however, do not amount to consistent abuse of the rule of law.

The use of violence to achieve political ends is an old phenomenon. Excesses in the face of that violence are also commonplace. The Baby Boomers are to thank for creating a culture in which such excess is called into question.

Growing up in the shadow of the cold war, the Baby Boomers secured an environment of safety and freedom for Generations X and Y to grow up in.

#### Requested Remedy

The disproportionate and unjust confiscation of the Baby Boomers' pensions would lead them to becoming a significant burden on the State. Given their sheer numbers, and the fact that they are bound to stick around for a while, it appears that Generations X and Y have not thought this through.