

MEDIA RELEASE

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Who Cares More About The Future?

More than two thirds (67%) of British people believe the UK Government considers future generations too little in decisions it makes today. This statistic, released by the Foundation for Democracy and Sustainable Development (www.fdsd.org) and the newly established Intergenerational Foundation (if.org.uk), highlights just how far behind public opinion our policy makers are when it comes to protecting the future.

The new research, conducted by IPSOS-MORI, also found that nearly half of us Brits (45%) think passing on a healthy planet is more important than passing on a thriving economy (9%), safety and security (16%) or even an unspoilt countryside (4%).

It seems that far from looking out only for ourselves or our own children, almost two thirds of us (64%) think *all* future generations' needs should take priority when we think about sharing the Earth's resources.

Halina Ward, Director of the Foundation for Democracy and Sustainable Development said: *"This Government is always claiming a 'horizon shift' towards long-term thinking. As our research shows, the public thinks they are failing. We need new institutions and policies to safeguard future generations, not fine words."*

"This gives a mandate for doing more for future generations," says Angus Hanton, Co-founder of the Intergenerational Foundation. *"It is clear from our research that the public is way ahead of government in caring about future generations."*

Ewan Jones, member of the Alliance for Future Generations (see notes), said: *"This research reveals that, when issues are framed in terms of future generations, people take a more responsible, global and longer-term perspective. It demonstrates that people are more than willing to step back from their day-to-day concerns to take the longer view."*

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Notes to Editors:

Halina Ward and Angus Hanton will be available for interview in-studio or down-the-line on Monday 14 Nov 2011.

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The **Foundation for Democracy and Sustainable Development** (<http://www.fdsd.org>) is a UK-based charity which works to find ways of equipping democracy to deliver sustainable development.

The Intergenerational Foundation is a non-party-political charity which exists to promote the rights of younger and future generations in policy making. (<http://www.if.org.uk>).

The **Alliance for Future Generations** (AFG) brings together civil society groups and individuals “working to bring **long-termism** and the **needs of future generations** into the heart of UK democracy and policy processes in order to safeguard the earth and secure intergenerational justice”. The Foundation for Democracy and Sustainable Development and the Intergenerational Foundation are both members and commissioned the Ipsos-MORI research as a contribution to the work of the Alliance. You can read more about the Alliance at <http://www.fdsd.org/2011/11/future-generations/>