



Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations

Annual Report 2024



Contents

Foreword

Page 2

Who We Are

Page 3

At a Glance

Page 4

Intergenerational Justice Prize 2023/2024

Page 5

Publications: IGJR, Position Papers and Blog

Page 6

Conference on Social Insurance and Pension Systems in the Academy for Political Education, Tutzing

Page 13

Campaigns: ‘Reform of the MPs Private Pension’ and ‘Intergenerational Fairness Day’

Page 17

New Webpage and Social Media Presence

Page 19

Podcasts

Page 20

Media Appearances and Lectures

Page 22

Preview: Walkshop 2025

Page 22

Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, and Advisory Board

Page 2

Support and Donations

Page 25

Foreword

Dear Friends, Supporters and Partners,

2024 was a good year for the Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations. This was achieved with an increased personnel this year. The projects of the foundation were brought forward significantly by a trio consisting of Lena Winzer, Grace Clover and Jörg Tremmel. Towards the end of the year this team was joined by two voluntary federal service employees, Carla Engel and Victoria Koß. Together with the indispensable interns and the ambassador circle, more working hours were dedicated to the FRFG's projects as in previous years. This was also reflected in our output.

The FRFG is both a Think-Tank and a Do-Tank; that is, it is engaged with both academic and activist work. New this year in the annual report is the rubric 'At a glance', which summarises the greatest successes of the year in a pictogram. This report is then structured so that all the publications of the foundation, including the *Intergenerational Justice Review*, our position papers and our blogs can be found under one heading. Our motto with all of these publications: combining vision with detailed analysis. Our approach rests upon the commitment to present complicated concepts in simple language – this makes academia appealing and accessible to young people.

Under the heading 'Campaigns' follows, on the one hand, the campaign to abolish the MP's pension system, for which we have over 170,000 signatures on our Change.org petition. We now also have a separate project website for this campaign with lots of background information. On the other hand, this section also includes our campaign for an 'Intergenerational Fairness Day'. This campaign works toward initiating a new UN day, similar to the World Water Day or World Children's Day. While this latter campaign focuses on long-term thinking in a broad way, and not least focuses on ecological themes, the former campaign focuses specifically on social security systems. This corresponds to the FRFG-Motto 'Fridays for Future, Saturdays for Social Security'.

All in all, the FRFG is on a good path. We would like to thank our voluntary board, employees, ambassadors, members of the board of trustees and the advisory board, as well as our interns, partners and supporters, who all stand up for the rights of future generations with admirable enthusiasm and commitment.

We hope you enjoy reading our annual report 2024!



Jörg Tremmel, Managing Director



Lena Winzer, Project Manager

Who we are

We are a think tank at the interface between research and politics. Through practical research and consulting, as well as projects and actions, we aim to improve knowledge and awareness of intergenerational justice and sustainability in the political sphere and society more widely. We publish books, studies and blogs. The FRFG also sees itself as an activist Do-Tank; that is, as an organisation which represents the interests of those cannot represent themselves at all, or only represent themselves in a limited way: children and future generations. We are financially independent and not affiliated with any political party.

What We Aim to Achieve

Our goal is to anchor intergenerational justice and the protection of long-term interests centrally in politics, the economy, and society. The decisions made today will determine what the world of tomorrow will look like; at the same time, these decisions are often influenced by the pursuit of short-term benefits. Politicians focus on election dates and fear, unfortunately often with good reason, for their chances of re-election if they prioritise the long-term perspective over short-term thinking.

Our vision of intergenerational justice includes the complete abandonment of this unsustainable behaviour in politics, economy, and society. It is immoral to live today at the expense of tomorrow. The young generation and the elderly generation of today must together ensure that future generations inherit unimpaired and living conditions fit for human beings.

What We Do

Our fields of focus include the environment/climate, finances, pensions, education, peace-keeping, the labour market, youth policy, and the future viability of our democracy. We present solutions which demonstrate how intergenerationally fair decisions can benefit all people. These solutions are published in comprehensible and accessible books and position papers. With our innovative 'Walkshops' that we have developed, as well as traditional campaigns, press appearances, lectures, and projects, we remind politicians and society of their responsibility towards future generations. We stimulate young research, organise symposia, congresses, and conferences, and publish the specialised journal *Intergenerational Justice Review*.

How We Work

The work of the FRFG is enabled by a closely interwoven interaction of different bodies and teams, who all advocate for intergenerational justice.

The Board of Directors represent the foundation to external stakeholders, organise projects, initiate campaigns and write position papers. They are also responsible for managing the foundation's funds and writing the annual report.

A further important part of the organisation is the academic advisory board, which is made up of renowned experts in academia, politics, economics and civil society. These prestigious people support the foundation through subject-specific reports and through advise on strategic questions.

The ambassadors of the FRFG contribute to our advocacy for intergenerational justice through their voluntary engagement. They support existing projects, develop their own new projects, and bring new momenta into the work of the foundation. The group consists of between 10 and 12 young people under 35.

The office team in Stuttgart – the machine room behind the foundation – is responsible for performing the daily tasks that our work requires. This team is made up of Jörg Tremmel, the managing director, and Lena Winzer and Grace Clover. Towards the end of 2024 the team gained the invaluable support of Carla Engle and Vitoria Koß, who are doing their voluntary federal service at the foundation.

Additionally, the FRFG is regularly supported by engaged interns, who bring new perspectives and fresh input to our work. This structure enables the FRFG to follow its goals effectively and to develop innovative actions for intergenerational justice.

At A Glance



Figure 1: Yearly review infographic

Our activities in 2024

Intergenerational Justice Prize 2023/2024

The prize, endowed with 10,000 Euros by the Apfelbaum Foundation, is awarded by the FRFG in cooperation with the British Intergenerational Foundation (IF). The aim of the prize is to promote academic work on intergenerational justice and to show political decision-makers

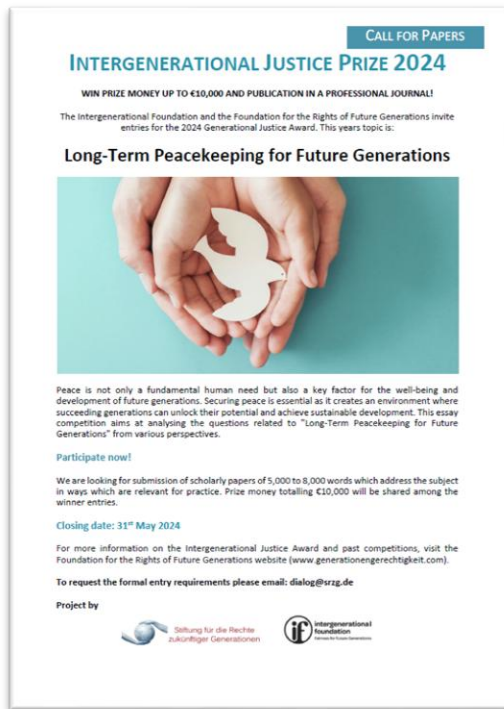


Figure 2: Call for Papers Poster

recognised in the same way as a phenomenon that we must overcome if we want to survive as humanity in the long term.

In the weeks following the choice of topic, a high-calibre jury was sought (and found): Dr. Mathew George (SIPRI), Professor Dr. Gerald Kirchner (ZNF), Professor Dr. Christian Reuter (TU Darmstadt), Professor Michal Smetana (Prague), Elena K. Sokova (VCDNP), Brian Toon (University of Colorado) and Professor Dr. Herbert Wulf (INEF). Subsequently, the call for papers was formulated in cooperation with the jury and a poster was designed for publication.

The call for papers emphasised the importance of peace as a fundamental human need and as a key factor for the well-being of future generations. Only the absence of war enables an environment in which people can fulfil their potential. Particular attention was paid to the threat posed by nuclear weapons and the need for sustainable peacekeeping.

At the end of 2023, the Call for Papers was announced internationally, e.g. via universities, political education centres and foundations. After the

new calls for action.

The process began in 2023 with the FRFG Board and the circle of ambassadors choosing a topic. The topic chosen was 'Long-term peacekeeping for future generations'. For a long time, peacekeeping and disarmament were not considered an issue of intergenerational justice. For the FRFG, peacekeeping must be framed as a generational issue, just like climate protection. Current developments have made the use of nuclear weapons more likely than at any time since 1945. Research into existential risks to humanity assumes a high probability that nuclear weapons will be used on a large scale within the lifetime of a child born today. Humanity cannot afford to continue to rely on the doctrine of nuclear deterrence developed in the 1950s for a bipolar world: The current approach to nuclear weapons is not sustainable. While the problem of climate change is at least recognised as a problem for humanity and solutions are being actively considered, 'war' has not yet been



Figure 3: Results of the IJP 2024

deadline for submissions (31 May 2024), the jury selected six outstanding entries from numerous international submissions.

The winners were:

- Michael Haiden, Ingolstadt University of Applied Sciences: 'Can Humanitarian Interventions Help Create Global Peace? Common Practices, Normative Change and the End of Nationalism'
- Lukas Kiemele, University of Freiburg: 'Challenges and prospects for long-term peacekeeping in the Anthropocene'
- Luzie Krüger, University of Bremen: 'Long-term peacekeeping through loss of modernity'
- Rojeh Gharfeh, Hebrew University of Jerusalem: 'Philosophical Foundations and Future Threats: Understanding Political Manipulation Impact on Democratic Principles and Securing Democratic Principles for Future Generations in the Digital Age'
- Augustine Akah, Kiel University and Brian Chaggu, Marie Curie Skłodowska University: 'Towards a Long-term Peace Approach: A Phenomenological Analysis of Contemporary and Emerging Conflicts'
- Ibrahim Khan, University of Chicago: 'Transforming Global Governance: Toward Sustainable Peace and Justice'

Publications: IGJR, Position Papers, and Blog

Intergenerational Justice Review

Since 2015, the FRFG has published the English-language journal *Intergenerational Justice Review* (IGJR) in collaboration with the London-based Intergenerational Foundation (IF). All issues of the IGJR are available free of charge and without registration on the igjr.org website.

Like the Intergenerational Justice Award, the double issue of 2024 was dedicated to the topic of peacekeeping. The printed articles, all taken from the competition entries, analyse the dynamics, causes and consequences of international and civil conflicts and contribute to a more advanced definition of 'peace' and 'peacekeeping'. Among the topics analysed are the role of humanitarian interventions, perspectives of the Global South on peace and conflict, reforms of the UN Security Council and the influence of climate change and colonial injustice on today's conflicts.

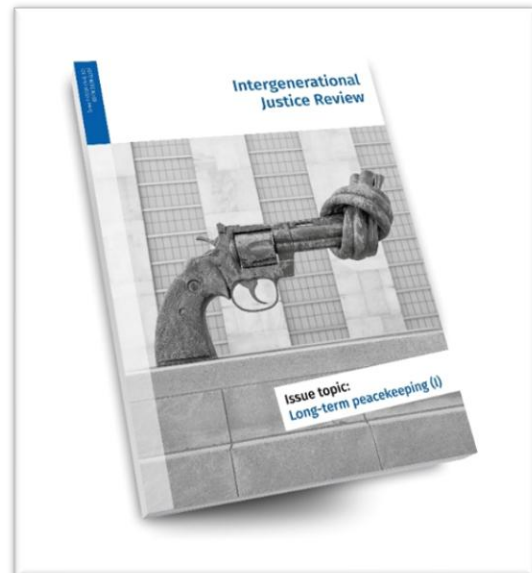


Figure 4: IGJR 1/2024

Michael Haiden: Humanitarian interventions and long-term peacekeeping

The first article in IGJR 1/2024 was written by Michael Haiden, who came top in the 2023/2024 Intergenerational Justice Award. The title of the article is 'Can humanitarian interventions help create global peace? Common practices, normative change and the end of nationalism'. Haiden explores the question of whether humanitarian interventions not only have a short-term effects, but can also contribute to peacekeeping in the long term. He argues that such interventions can contribute to transforming global norms and values, as well as the identities of states. They reduce nationalism by reinforcing two attitudes: firstly, that all people deserve

equal moral consideration and, secondly, that respect for basic human rights is more important than national sovereignty. Humanitarian interventions can thus be a step towards global peace while respecting human rights.

Ibrahim Khan: Perspectives from the Global South on global governance

The second essay in issue 1/2024 is by Ibrahim Khan and is entitled 'Transforming global governance: Crafting sustainable peace through Global South perspectives'.

Khan analyses how voices from the Global South in the early 20th century understood 'peace' as more than just the absence of war. He refers to thinkers such as Rabindranath Tagore, N. B. Bonarjee and Radhabinod Pal, who saw structural inequalities, economic coercion and imperialist legacies as central obstacles to global peace. In relation to the present, Khan calls for a reform of international institutions, including the democratisation of the UN Security Council and a stronger role for the UN General Assembly.

Augustine Akah und Brian Chaggu: Long-term peace projects

The first article in issue 2/2024 is by Augustine Akah and Brian Chaggu and is entitled 'Towards a long-term peace approach: a phenomenological analysis of contemporary and emerging conflicts'.

The two authors emphasise the urgent need to create long-term peace in a world in which nuclear weapons, in combination with the continued fundamental acceptance of war, pose existential threats to humanity. The study examines, firstly, a number of causes of war. Secondly, peace initiatives are conceptualised in the context of peace and conflict research and these concepts are examined with regard to their significance for future generations. Thirdly, existing approaches to peacebuilding are examined from different perspectives and their strengths and shortcomings with regard to emerging conflicts are re-emphasised. Fourth, three levels of global priorities for achieving long-term peace are proposed. The authors suggest that the abolition of nuclear weapons and proactive diplomacy are crucial steps, whilst also emphasising the central role to be played by the United Nations in promoting peace initiatives.

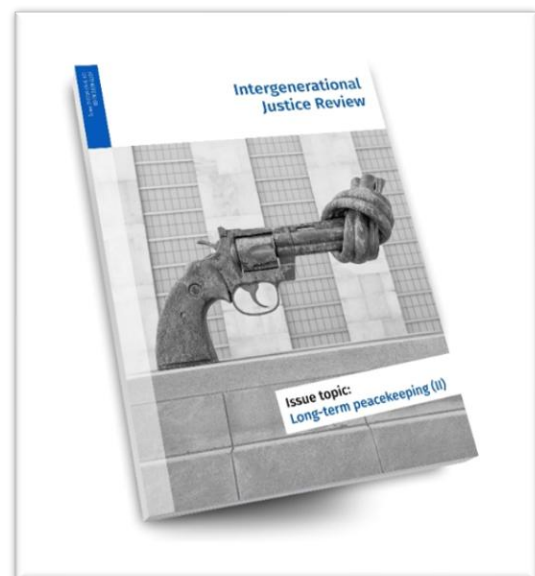


Figure 5: IGJR 2/2024

Lukas Kiemele: Peacekeeping in the Anthropocene

Lukas Kiemele summarises his article entitled 'Challenges and prospects for long-term peacekeeping in the Anthropocene' in issue 2/2024 as follows:

'Structural problems of the present often arise from unresolved injustices towards past generations: In the Anthropocene discourse, central assumptions of modernity are called into question, which points to the connections between ecological crises, colonialism and the classical humanist historiography of modernity. Long-term peacebuilding can only succeed with intergenerational, global and historical responsibility.'

Book reviews

As usual, the IGJR issues also include book reviews of new and relevant academic literature. In 2024 the following books (publication dates in brackets) were discussed:

- *Can War Be Justified? A Debate* by Andrew Fiala and Jennifer Kling (2023)
- *What is Intergenerational Justice?* by Axel Gosseries (2023)
- *The Path to Zero: Dialogues on Nuclear Dangers* by Richard Falk and David Krieger (2012)
- *Justice Across Ages: Treating Young and Old as Equals* by Juliana Bidadanure (2021)

In 2024, as in previous years, the IGJR was a valuable resource for academics and political decision-makers alike.

Position Papers and Mini-Studies

Position paper on pension systems



Figure 6: PP Pension Systems

The FRFG has published a new position paper entitled: *Mit der Erwerbstätigenversicherung jetzt beginnen: mehr Solidarität und weniger Generationen-Ungerechtigkeit* ('Starting now with a universal employment insurance: more solidarity and less intergenerational inequality'). Both the civil servant pension system and the statutory pension insurance scheme are in need of reform. The civil servants' pension scheme threatens to cut off the air supply to the federal states and local authorities in particular (less so to the federal government). The statutory pension scheme, on the other hand, which covers 80-85 per cent of the working population, needs income from contributions in order to cope with demographic ageing. The key question is therefore: 'Can the demographic decline in the number of contributors be offset by the introduction of an employment insurance scheme?'. With the right timing, the gradual inclusion of new civil servants would mean a smaller increase in contribution rates for today's young generation of workers, and thus also less generational inequity. At the same time, this reform would create more solidarity and social justice. This is because statutory pension insurance is not currently an insurance scheme for everyone – rather, the higher earners are in special schemes, the most important of which is the civil servants' pension scheme. The FRFG sees the first step, which makes everything else possible, in the inclusion of members of parliament in the statutory pension insurance scheme. In addition, those who make pension laws should also be affected by this. The position paper can be found here (in German):

https://generationengerechtigkeit.info/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/PP_Erwerbstaetigenversicherung-Mai-2024.pdf

Position paper about German nuclear waste

In 2024, the FRFG also published the position paper *Nach dem Atomausstieg: Wie geht es weiter mit der Lagerung des deutschen Atommülls?* ('After the nuclear phase-out: what's next for the storage of German nuclear waste?').

Dealing with nuclear waste is a profound ethical and intergenerational challenge. In 2017, the Site Selection Act restarted the search for a final storage site in Germany – with the aim of finding a suitable final storage site for high-level radioactive waste by 2031. However, new reports predict that this decision-making process could be completed by 2066 at the earliest, or even 2094 under pessimistic assumptions. This new time horizon raises new and different questions of intergenerational justice. Until all high-level radioactive waste is transferred to a deep geological repository, it poses a major risk to people living today, especially young people with their long remaining life expectancy. In a deep geological repository, nuclear waste would be safe from aeroplane crashes, terrorism and targeted bombing in the event of war. However, as long as the nuclear waste is stored in the 16 above-ground interim storage facilities, the opposite is true. Concrete, barbed wire and guards cannot offer anywhere near the same level of protection as a repository in deep geological layers. Interim storage facilities are not designed for war or troubled times, but for peace.

Based on the premise that postponing the determination of a repository site is unacceptable, the position paper sets out concrete demands to speed up the process and keep to the original timetable.

The position paper can be downloaded here (in German):

<http://generationengerechtigkeit.info/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/PP-Zwischenlagerung-Nov-2024.pdf>

Mini-study on the carbon footprints of different age groups

An important sub-topic of intergenerational justice is climate intergenerational justice. In this context, one research question is whether human actions that cause greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are related to age. Do people who are 0-20 years old in the present have a different carbon footprint than those who are 21-30 years old, 31-40 years old, 41-50 years old, etc.? In the short study, we analysed data from the Federal Environment Agency's CO₂ calculator to find a possible correlation between age and GHG emissions. The result: The average GHG emission is 8,760 kg for the age group 'up to 17 years'. For 18 to 29-year-olds, the average is 7,701 kg, for 30 to 59-year-olds it is 8,692 kg and for the category '60 years and older' the average is 9,156 kg.

However, the data quality of the UBA data was not very good with regard to our research question. As the use of the calculator is purely voluntary and not mandatory, there is already a bias as a result. People who are interested in their own carbon footprint and/or are also interested in reducing it are probably more likely to complete this survey tool than those who are not interested in their carbon footprint or simply do not know about the existence of the calculator. It was also detrimental to data quality that the data set only measures the age of the participants in four possible categories, which is why a more precise analysis is not possible.



Figure 7: Cover of the PP on nuclear waste

About the study: <http://generationengerechtigkeit.info/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/FRFG-Stu-die-zu-CO2-Fussabdruck-und-Alter.pdf>

At the same time as the FRFG study described above, a similar study was published by DIW evaluating the CO emissions behaviour of 7,304 households in the three areas of housing, food and mobility, which is well worth reading:

Bohmann, Sandra / Küçük, Merve (2024): High-income households cause more greenhouse gas emissions – mainly due to their mobility behaviour. DIW Weekly Report 27/2024. https://www.diw.de/documents/publikationen/73/diw_01.c.906974.de/24-27.pdf

Blog Posts

In 2024, as in previous years, the FRFG blog was a channel for exciting contributions from FRFG board members, ambassadors, interns and external people who had something to say on the topic of intergenerational justice. There are now three such channels: on the German-language website, on the English-language website and on the project website on pension schemes for members of parliament. 29 contributions have been published on the German website, while 8 contributions have already been published on the English website, which went online in August 2024.

Only a selection of the German articles is listed for the annual report; the individual texts are translated and reproduced here in abridged form. The full articles can be read online at <https://generationengerechtigkeit.info> and <https://intergenerationaljustice.org/> and <https://abgeordnete-rein-in-die-grv.de/>

The Summit of the Future as a great opportunity for an ‘Intergenerational Fairness Day’



Figure 8: Summit of the Future Blog Post

The first United Nations Summit of the Future took place on 22 and 23 September 2024. The summit was a high-level event that brought together leaders from around the world to build a new international consensus for a better future. On the one hand, the summit aimed to fulfil our existing international commitments, such as the Sustainable Development Goals. On the other hand, it was about taking concrete steps to be prepared for future challenges and opportunities. [...]

The FRFG used the summit to promote its idea: an Intergenerational Fairness Day as an annual opportunity to assess political progress and put new ideas into practice. [...] The organising nations, Namibia and Germany, worked with stakeholders from civil society and member states to develop a pact for the future. During this phase, the FRFG provided written and oral contributions to Section 4 ‘Youth and Future Generations’ of this draft and emphasised that future generations must be prioritised in the final Pact. Unfortunately, our call for an Intergenerational Fairness Day was not included in the final text. However, it is positive that the UN committed (a) to appoint a Special Representative on Future Generations at the United Nations, (b) to convene an inclusive high-level plenary session of the UN General Assembly on future generations, and (c) to request the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the Declaration.

FRFG election criteria for the European Elections 2024



Figure 9: European election blog post

On 9 June, the time had come again in the EU: a new EU Parliament was elected. This election allowed EU citizens to have a decisive say in European politics. This is because the Parliament helps to shape EU laws and the budget of the European Union and also controls the other EU institutions. In order to find out how the parties running in Germany intend to tackle the most pressing problems and challenges of our time, we have drawn up questions for election touch-

stones and submitted them to the following parties either by e-mail or via a form: CDU/CSU, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, SPD, AfD, Die Linke, FDP, Die Partei, Freie Wähler, Partei Mensch Umwelt Tierschutz-Tierschutzpartei, ÖDP, Familien-Partei, Volt, Piratenpartei, Bündnis Sahra Wagenknecht.

The evaluated answers to the election test stones for the 2024 European elections in the areas of climate policy, financial policy, education policy, agricultural policy, labour market policy, digital policy, co-determination of the younger generation and pension policy can be found (in German) here:

<https://generationengerechtigkeit.info/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/WPS-Antworten-Europawahl-2024.pdf>

A great step for intergenerational justice? The new EU-Commissioner

EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen gave an important indicator in November with the appointment of [Glenn Micallef](#) from Malta, aged just 35, as EU Commissioner for Intergenerational Equality, Youth, Culture and Sport: Generational justice is to be addressed more visibly and strategically in the coming years. However, while Micallef's youthful enthusiasm and previous political experience in Malta appear promising, his agenda raises questions. In his [opening speech](#), Micallef announced a [comprehensive strategy for intergenerational justice](#), which should take into account the impact of today's decisions on future generations. The vision is laudable, but the concrete organisation is still lacking. A spokesperson for the new Commissioner later said that for her, 'intergenerational justice' also means looking after the interests of the older generation. But what if there are different interests between young and old?



Figure 10: New EU Commissioner for Future Generations Blog

The yearly World Climate Conference should gain a permanent secretariat in Brasil

Following the disappointing results of the World Climate Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan in November 2024, the FRFG called for a reform of the awarding process for the world climate conferences. This debate had already been started by an open letter from renowned climate experts, [initiated by the Club of Rome](#). The aim: In future, it must be ruled out that the annual world climate conference, which is so important for the future of mankind, is



Figure 11: A permanent seat for COP? Blog Post

organised by petrol states. According to the International Energy Agency, authoritarian Azerbaijan derives 90 per cent of its export revenues from the sale of oil and gas. In his opening speech at the 29th COP, President Ilham Aliyev praised his country's fossil fuels as "gifts from God". During the negotiation process, Saudi Arabia's delegation was given a direct opportunity to influence the final text. Due to such lobbying and the chaotic conduct of negotiations, the compromise formulation from Dubai (COP28) on 'transitioning away from fossil fuels', which was perceived as a great success in 2023, was no longer included in the [closing documents](#) in 2024. From the FRFG's point of view, this is a disaster, as human CO₂ emissions and the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere continue to rise unabated. If the actual cause of climate change is not addressed, the costs of climate change – and thus the dispute over financing issues – will also be unmanageable. Instead of 300 billion or long-term 1.3 trillion US dollars in annual climate financing, as agreed in Baku, an ever-increasing amount will logically be needed in future to pay for the ongoing climate damage. [...]

Conference about social systems and pension policy with the Academy Tutzing

How can demographic change be managed? How should the retirement of the 'baby boomers' be dealt with? How can pension and retirement policies be rethought?

These and other pressing questions were addressed at the conference 'A question of generational justice – sustainable social- and pension systems' on 21-22 November 2024, which took place just a few days after the end of the so-called 'Ampelregierung' ('Traffic Light Coalition', referring to the red, yellow and green party colours of the SPD, FDP and Greens).



Figure 12: Academy for Political Education Tutzing

the controversial Pensions Package II. Werding emphasised that existing structures such as statutory pension insurance (gRV), civil servant pensions and private pension systems do not

The event was a cooperation between the Academy for Political Education Tutzing and the Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations (FRFG). It provided a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue. The high-calibre experts discussed the challenges of old-age provision – and possible reform options – from an interdisciplinary perspective. In his introductory lecture, Professor Dr. Martin Werding, economist and member of the German Council of Economic Experts, addressed the current political situation and

need to be reinvented, but rather further developed. Werding outlined various reform options, including the expansion of funded supplementary insurance and a gradual increase in the retirement age in line with rising life expectancy according to the so-called '2:1 rule'. According to the 2:1 rule, two thirds of an increase in longer life expectancy is passed on to an increase in the retirement age; one third leads to more years of retirement. These approaches could ensure the stability of the pension system in the long term, but in the short term, measures such as 'progressive pension assessment', a stronger sustainability factor or inflation instead of wage adjustment are necessary in order to cope financially with the retirement of the baby boomer generation.

Werding also took a critical look at civil servant pensions, which he found to be financially unsustainable and in need of a comprehensive reform in the same way as pension insurance. Under current law, expenditure on civil servant pensions will increase immensely, especially in the federal states and municipalities. Professor Werding presented the approach of the German Council of Economic Experts as a reform option. In its 2023/2024 annual report, the Council had spoken out in favour of gradually phasing out the current civil servant pension system. The contributions of new civil servants would then be the same as those paid into the pension insurance scheme (currently 18.6%), but would flow into a separate contribution fund to help finance the pensions of current civil servants instead of flowing into the pension fund. As they are not allowed to be spent in the statutory pension scheme, the statutory pension scheme would remain formally unaffected by this reform. Nevertheless, a more transparent form of pension provision for civil servants would be achieved and, in future, demographic-related measures could be transferred to the (then) analogue system for civil servants.

Lecture by Professor Dr. Dr. Jörg Tremmel: 'Challenges' for the collective pension systems in Germany

In the second lecture of the conference, Professor Dr. Dr. Jörg Tremmel (University of Tübingen, managing director of the FRFG) focused on the need for intergenerationally just reforms. He began with a precise definition of the term by explaining that 'intergenerational justice', in contrast to 'sustainability', refers to the subjects at stake – the generations. This was followed by an explanation of the term 'generation' in and of itself, and then in the context of (pension) policy. Tremmel made it clear that an overall scientific assessment of generational destinies is impossible, as they depend on a variety of influences. Within specific policy areas, e.g. pension policy, however, it is very possible to categorise certain measures as generationally just or unjust. In the latter case, the focus is on the strongly varying contribution-benefit ratios ('returns') of different cohorts over the course of a lifetime. Tremmel argued in favour of fair burden-sharing between young and old through the sustainability factor, which moderately distributes both contribution increases and pension cuts. Further measures are necessary: e.g. linking the retirement age to life expectancy, abolishing the 'pension at 63' and supplementing it with capital cover system.

At the same time, state and private retirement policies need to be considered together in order to create more solidarity and social justice overall. The first step in Germany would be to include members of parliament in the statutory pension scheme – both in the Bundestag and in the state parliaments. This would create trust and increase the acceptance of pension and pension policy reforms. He backed up this argument with the example of Austria, where over the next few decades, young civil servants from all social groups will gradually be included in the universal state pension system, following the example set by the MPs in 1997.

Ultimately, he said, it was essential to take bold steps in order to make the pension systems sustainable and intergenerationally fair.

Lecture by Professor Dr. Felix Welti: 'Parallel systems: State pension systems, the MP pension, civil servant pension, and the self-employed'



Figure 13: Professor Welti with ambassador Ben Jagasia

In his lecture on the second day of the conference, Professor Dr. Felix Welti (University of Kassel) examined the old-age security systems in Germany from a legal perspective. The aim of his presentation was to explain the complex structures of these systems and to highlight possible reform approaches. Old-age security, he explained, encompasses the protection of income in retirement, i.e. after the working phase, and goes beyond purely financial security. It is also about mitigating social risks such as illness or the need for care in old age. He em-

phasised that all systems are based on the economic foundation of current value creation and require long-term political planning and social trust.

Welti began by presenting the various pillars of old-age provision in Germany. In addition to private pension provision, which includes family maintenance obligations, the passing on of assets or private savings such as property ownership, there is also occupational pension provision and statutory pension insurance. The latter forms the backbone of old-age provision and covers the vast majority of the labour force. Special systems currently exist for civil servants and members of parliament, whose pensions are financed directly from tax revenues, as well as for freelance professions such as doctors or architects, who are often covered by pension schemes. Welti presented exact numbers of recipients and legislative competences. For example, there are 3708 people with entitlement and 3312 recipients of the 'parliamentary pension'.

Welti also addressed the (constitutional) legal and political challenges of pension provision. He emphasised that it was not only about economic aspects, but also about fundamental rights such as the protection of property and the trust of the insured. Legislators are faced with the difficult task of finding fair solutions for a large number of existing parallel systems.

Lecture by Sven Schumann: 'Different models of capital-marked funded old-age insurance and generational assets'

Sven Schumann, Director of Deutsche Börse Group and Chairman of the Alliance for Economic Education, addressed the question of what capital market-funded pension provision could look like in Germany in his presentation 'Different models of capital-funded pension provision and generational capital'. He examined three central topics: the political framework, capital accumulation on the capital market and the role of funded approaches in pensions.

Firstly, Schumann pointed out the weaknesses of the current pay-as-you-go system, which is coming under increasing pressure due to demographic change and the rising old-age dependency

ratio. Tax subsidies for statutory pension insurance were placing an increasing burden on the federal budget (2024: 108.4bn) without solving the underlying structural problems. At the same time, the adjustments to the statutory pension scheme are controversial. Higher contribution rates put a strain on the labour market, raising the retirement age means less leisure time in old age and a change in the pension level could lead to more poverty in old age. With an age structure of eligible voters in which more than half are older than 50, possible reforms are politically unattractive. Schumann stated that the reform plans for private pension provision through an old-age provision deposit had failed as a result of the 'traffic light switch-off' ('Ampel-Aus' = the end of the coalition of SPD, FDP and Greens). The example of the Swedish equity pension – in which 2.5 per cent of pension contributions flow into state or private funds – demonstrates how a capital market link can be designed.

A central point of Schumann's presentation was the low participation of the German population in the capital market. He also criticised persistent negative beliefs about the capital market, such as 'shares are risky'. Schumann emphasised the long-term earnings opportunities offered by a broadly diversified, regular and cost-effective investment in shares. Using various return triangles, he illustrated that risks are minimised through longer investment periods.



Figure 14: Schumann with ambassador Katharina Wimmer

Keynote speech by Dr. Dina Frommert on the topic of working life

Dr. Dina Frommert, Head of the Research and Development Department at Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund, presented key findings and data on the topic of working life as part of her keynote speech. She began by presenting current figures on life expectancy: while life expectancy for 65-year-olds has risen significantly since 1950, the increase has levelled off since around 2007-2010. At the same time, the length of time a pension is drawn on average is increasing. It has doubled to around 20 years in recent decades. This poses challenges for the pension system, especially against the backdrop of demographic change and rising old-age dependency ratios. This also introduces the question of raising the standard retirement age. Frommert



Figure 15: Frommert with ambassador Katharina Wimmer

explained that this would rise even more slowly than at present if the proposal to link it to life expectancy were to be honoured. In her view, special regulations such as the 'pension from 63' posed a problem: Many people who retire early have worked for a long time and have earned (above) average wages. The extended pension entitlement without deductions places a financial burden on the insurance collective.

Frommert used extensive data to show how employment histories and insurance status prior to retirement influence old-age provision. Women, in particular those who have been long-term carers or have worked part-time, are often affected by lower pension entitlements. There is a positive trend in the employment rate of older people. This is rising steadily and, at over 73%, is now well above the OECD average in Germany. The estimates of contribution rates and pension levels up to 2040 show the need to adapt the system to the demographic challenge. According to Frommert, the fact that we are already managing to finance significantly more pensioners than before with a contribution rate of 18.6% gives us hope. According to Frommert, the high expenditure of the federal budget is mainly due to non-contributory benefits. Financing these is a matter for the general public instead of just those in the state pension system. If the federal subsidy that the federal government transfers to the gRV is intended to cover precisely these non-contributory benefits, then it is currently too low rather than too high.

The message of the presentation was clear: the statutory pension scheme is not an ailing construct, but rather can be adjusted in a targeted manner to meet the demographic challenges, creating a more sustainable and fairer pension system.

To summarise, the conference impressively illustrated how complex, but also how solvable in principle, the challenges of old-age provision in Germany are. The variety of approaches presented and the constructive discussions gave rise to cautious optimism. The participants left the conference with the feeling that reforms are possible – if courageous decisions are made and the principles of intergenerational equity, social justice and transparency are consistently implemented. The mini-Walkshop organised by the FRFG on the second day of the event was also rated positively.



Figure 16: FRFG group in the library

To see the complete conference report, please use the following link:

<https://generationengerechtigkeit.info/tagungsbericht-tutzing-2024/>

Campaigns: ‘Reform of the parliamentary pension’ und ‘Intergenerational Justice Day’

MPs in the statutory pension system



Figure 17: MPs in the statutory pension system

In 2023, the FRFG launched a petition on Change.org to abolish the current unjust system of parliamentary pensions in Germany. We were surprised that it was so well received – 150,000 signatures by the end of 2023. When it comes to reforms, the ethically right thing is rarely also the popular thing. As we had obviously struck a chord, we expanded this campaign in 2024 and set up a project website. In the MPs'

opinions section, you can now read how individual federal and state MPs position themselves on the topic. The Change.org petition with its 170,000 signatures is linked under Petitions, as is the petition submitted to the Petitions Committee of the Bundestag. Under Studies & Legislation you will find a collection of scientific studies on the topic, as well as exemplary laws that have led to elected representatives and voters being in the same boat when it comes to the pension system. Now all that remains is for the Bundestag to follow suit. Hopefully after the early general election in February 2025. And last but not least, new facets of the topic are constantly being highlighted in the blog posts section. The following articles appeared here in 2024 (in German):

- Abolition of MPs' pensions: Austria as a role model <https://abgeordnete-rein-in-die-grv.de/abgeordnetenpension-vorbild-oesterreich/> -
- When will the pension costs for members of the 8th Saxon state parliament be paid? <https://abgeordnete-rein-in-die-grv.de/wann-fallen-die-kosten-an-mdl/> -
- Which Saxon state parliament members are true to their programme? https://abgeordnete-rein-in-die-grv.de/saechsischer-landtag_1/ -
- VdK social association interview with the FRFG on occupational pensions <https://abgeordnete-rein-in-die-grv.de/sozialverband-vdk-interview/> -
- AfD in Saxony: Preaching water and drinking wine when it comes to pensions <https://abgeordnete-rein-in-die-grv.de/afd-in-sachsen/>

Intergenerational Fairness Day

2024 was a year of increasing international cooperation for the FRFG. The international campaign for an official 'Intergenerational Fairness Day' merged with FRFG's commitment to the United Nations' first 'Summit of the Future'.

The campaign for an Intergenerational Fairness Day (IFD) began in 2023 with the vision of establishing an official UN day of action to raise public awareness of the rights and interests of future generations. The UN has already proclaimed various similar days (e.g. World Children's Day, Human Rights Day, International Women's Day, World Water Day, etc.). A day of intergenerational justice is still missing from this series.

The first United Nations Summit of the Future took place in New York on 22 and 23 September 2024 – a historic summit that aimed to strengthen international cooperation and focus on the challenges facing future generations. After several discussions within the IFD network, the FRFG actively contributed to the preparations and discussions of this summit through written and oral statements, particularly in the areas of youth and future generations. For example, we successfully argued in favour of binding concrete measures in the adopted Declaration on Future Generations, including the appointment of a UN Special Representative on Future Generations and the establishment of an annual high-level forum on this topic. Nevertheless, the recognition of an official UN Intergenerational Fairness Day remains an unfulfilled demand that we will continue to pursue in the coming years. The adopted Pact for the Future and the Declaration on Future Generations nevertheless mark milestones in the protection of the rights of future generations. The latter is the first of its kind and sends a strong signal in favour of long-term responsibility and intergenerational justice. The results of the Summit of the Future and our campaign for the IFD have visibly advanced the global debate on intergenerational justice.



Figure 18: Today is the Intergenerational Fairness Day!

Our New Webpage and Social Media Presence

In summer 2024, it was finally ready: the foundation's English website was completely redesigned and now shines in a modern design. With the aim of offering our users an improved experience, we have overhauled the platform both visually and in terms of content.



Figure 19: Header of the new English website

The new page impresses with its clear, user-friendly structure, which makes it easier to find information quickly and efficiently. In addition to intuitive navigation, the range of information has been expanded to include a wide range of content. For example, visitors can find out more about our projects and positions on intergenerational justice in the new blog. Position papers have also been translated into English.

The next project is now due in 2025: the revision of the FRFG's German website. Building on the experience and success of the English relaunch, we want to create a platform that is modern, informative and inviting.

Stay in contact!

The FRFG is active on Instagram [@gengerecht](#) and on [LinkedIn](#) as the 'Stiftung für die Rechte zukünftiger Generationen' (this page is now primarily bilingual: our [English-language LinkedIn page](#) 'Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations' still exists, but is less active). This is where we share everything worth knowing about our work: from exciting blog posts and podcast episodes to news about our projects, events and initiatives.

Until recently, the FRFG was also represented on X (formerly Twitter). However, at the end of 2024, we decided to leave the platform due to developments under Elon Musk. Instead, we are increasingly relying on Instagram and LinkedIn to engage with you and further advance the discussion on intergenerational justice. Follow us to stay up to date and become part of the movement for a fair world for all generations!

Podcasts

Generationengerechtigkeit – Der Podcast

This year, the FRFG celebrated an exciting premiere: On August 1, 2024, the first episode of the new German-language podcast [Intergenerational Justice – the Podcast](#) was published. The host is Jörg Tremmel, managing director of the foundation and adjunct professor at the Institute of Political Science at the University of Tübingen. With his expertise and passion for the topic of intergenerational justice, Tremmel conducts in-depth conversations with leading thinkers and scientists who have dealt intensively with this concept in their work. The podcast, which is published every six months, highlights the intellectual works of the guests as well as their personal backgrounds and research interests in each episode.

This not only enriches the professional discourse, but also takes a look at the people who shape the discussion about intergenerational justice with their theories and publications. The guest of the first episode was Dieter Birnbacher, emeritus professor of philosophy, whose consequentialist theory of intergenerational justice had already been published in the 1980s. In conversation with Tremmel, Birnbacher addressed an impressive range of topics, including analytical philosophy, responsibility, the non-identity problem, reproductive duties and the distribution of power and resources between generations.



Figure 20: 'Generationengerechtigkeit der Podcast'-Poster

IFD Podcast

In 2024, FRFG successfully continued its English-language podcast [Intergenerational Fairness Day Podcast](#), which was launched on November 16, 2023 at the premiere of the first 'IFD'. Host and project manager Lena Winzer has published a new episode every three months since the premiere of the podcast. With a wide range of topics and top-class guests, the



Figure 21: IFD Podcast, episode 3

can be implemented.

The third episode, *Unseen Heroes: Empowering Young Carers*, focused on the challenges and needs of young carers. This topic, which also shaped the double edition of the *Intergenerational Justice Review 2023*, was explored in depth with experts such as Krista Cartlidge from MYTIME Young Carers and Benjamin Salzmann from the Young Carer Center Windschatten Berlin. The discussion highlighted the impact of home care activities on the physical, emotional and social well-being of young people and presented supportive approaches for those affected and their families.

The fourth episode, *Nuclear Weapons: The Ultimate Existential Risk*, dealt with the existential dangers of nuclear weapons. Together with Susi Snyder from the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), Lena Winzer analysed the threat of a possible nuclear war, the consequences of a nuclear winter and strategies for disarmament. ICAN, winner of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize, contributed its expertise and underlined the urgency of international action.

The fifth episode, *The Future of Intelligence: AI and the Survival of Humanity*, dealt with the dangers of General Artificial Intelligence (AGI). Otto Barten from the Existential Risk Observatory explained the risks of uncontrolled technological developments and discussed possible regulatory approaches to minimise the threat of AGI. This episode combined scientific analysis with a tangible presentation of the challenges that AI poses for humanity.

The year was rounded off with the sixth episode, *Negotiating Tomorrow: COP29's Impact on Intergenerational Fairness*, in which the 29th World Climate Conference in Baku was critically analysed. Together with Arthur Kießling, who represented the FRFG on site, Lena Winzer highlighted key topics such as the financing gap, progress in methane reduction and the problematic role of fossil fuels. The episode showed how climate negotiations can be assessed in the context of intergenerational justice and what steps are necessary to achieve sustainable progress. In 2024, the *Intergenerational Fairness Day Podcast* has established itself as a valuable format that combines expertise and practical discussions. It creates a

platform to discuss pressing questions of intergenerational justice and to make them accessible to a broad public.

Media appearances and lectures

In 2024, the FRFG was regularly represented in the media to present its positions on intergenerational justice, pension systems and youth participation. Posts in formats such as Mitreden! Deutschland diskutiert (ARD), Tagesgespräch (ARD alpha), Politikum (WDR 5) und 13 Fragen (ZDF) reached a broad audience.

Specific topics such as the debt brake, pension reforms and the right to vote for young people were also heard – including in interviews with SWR, BR24 and Focus Online. The foundation received further attention through discussions at ARTE Saloon on the political marginalisation of youth. This media presence underlines the importance of intergenerational justice in the public debate and motivates us to continue to advance these issues in 2025.



Figure 22: Left: Ambassador Arthur Kießling at Mitreden.ard.de. Right: Head of the Board Luise Roither as a guest at the '100 heads' to speak with the FDP.



Figure 23: Left: Ambassador Katharina Wimmer at the forum 'next generation' in conversation about temporary nuclear waste storage. Right: Ambassador Jonas Hohenforst at a podium discussion at the GVG. Picture by Christian Kruppa.

All media appearances can be found on the website:

<https://generationengerechtigkeit.info/presse/medienecho/>

Preview: Walkshop 2025 'Nuclear disarmament and long-term peacekeeping'

The Walkshops (from 'Walk' for hike and 'Workshop' for seminar) are the central educational project of the FRFG. This innovative format brings many things together: a podcast hike, visits to places of learning, group experiences and dialogue evenings. Preparations for the Walkshop 2025 entitled 'Nuclear Weapons and Long-Term Peacekeeping' began in early summer 2024. As the first Walkshop outside Germany, this Walkshop will deal with the

challenges and long-term perspectives of nuclear disarmament and global peace on site in Scotland.

The naval base of the British nuclear submarines in Faslane-on-Clyde and the Faslane Peace Camp, which has existed for over 40 years, are planned as places of



Figure 25: Hiking at a Walkshop

learning. These places offer a unique opportunity to experience the discrepancy between military interests and civil protest at first hand and to critically question it. Historical, legal and security policy perspectives will be integrated in evening discussions. The aim is to gain a deeper understanding of the political and ethical dimensions of nuclear armament and its effects on future generations. The route has already been planned in detail, and the accommodation for the participants has also been reserved.

The project is financed by the Stiftung Apfelbaum.



Figure 24: Project image peacekeeping

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Board of Directors



Luise Roither (Chairwoman and Spokesperson)

Luise Roither is a health economist and works full-time in the R&D of medical technology innovations. In 2016, she founded her own initiative for the young generation in the healthcare sector, the Health Think Tank. Luise has dedicated her professional and part of her private life to the health care system and is constantly looking for people and organisations who share this enthusiasm and want to follow the path towards a sustainable health and care system.



Christopher Isensee

Christopher Isensee is a political scientist. His studies at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, the Harz University of Applied Sciences in Halberstadt and the Masarykova Univerzita in Brno (Czech Republic) focused on political participation and theories of political change. Professionally, Christopher is active in the field of development policy information and education work. At the FRFG, he is particularly involved in the field of 'Walkshops'.



Grace Clover

Grace Clover recently completed her studies in History and Modern Languages (German) at the University of Oxford, where she focused on the history of social movements, families and gender. She is co-editor of the *Intergenerational Justice Review*, where she explores theories of long-term thinking, paradigm shifts in how we interact with the natural world, and theories of intergenerational justice. She has written several book reviews on these topics in the IGJR.



Jörg Tremmel (Managing Director)

Jörg Tremmel founded the FRFG and is now its managing director. Within the foundation, he is in charge of the Walkshops, the concept of which he developed, the Intergenerational Justice Prize and the journal *Intergenerational Justice Review*, which the FRFG runs together with the London-based partner foundation Intergenerational Foundation. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Tübingen and teaches on the topic of political utopias.

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Grace Clover

Viktoria Koß (A federal voluntary year employee since December 2024)

Lena Winzer

Support and Donate!

The Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations is registered as a charitable foundation. The majority of our work is funded through donations. The central pillar of our financing comes from contributions from our support circle and private donations. These funds are mainly used to cover general administrative costs (such as the salary of our research assistant and office rent).

Here's how you can support the FRFG:

By becoming a member of our support circle, you enable our projects.

The support circle brings together friends of the FRFG. We warmly invite you to become part of our network – whether as an individual, an institution, or a company. By doing so, you contribute to ensuring the quality and independence of the FRFG in the long term. As a member of the support circle, you pay an annual fee of 50 euros, and those under 30 years old pay 25 euros. With your contributions, we implement projects in Germany on the topic of generational justice and engage young people. The FRFG is largely driven by its young voluntary board members and ambassadors. You help us achieve our goals, carry out our projects, and further develop our work. Our small office team coordinates our voluntary helpers and interns, our fundraising, and our press and public relations work, as well as managing our website. With your donation, you help maintain our modest office. Because without our office team, there would be no FRFG and none of our projects.

And what do you get out of it?

Whenever possible, the projects are made accessible to you – with invitations to events and discussions and calls to participate and get involved. You will receive the newsletter with current information about the foundation's activities and invitations to special events where board members or management are also available for exchange. And you have the opportunity to actively contribute as an idea generator to foundation projects. We also look forward to your expertise!

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Responsible: Board of Directors of the Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations
Mannspergerstr. 29, 70619 Stuttgart, Germany
Tel: +49 711 28052777
Fax: +49 3212 2805277
E-Mail: kontakt@srzg.de
Intergenerationaljustice.org

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