

# Who Introduced Ella's Law to Parliament?

**Ella's Law was introduced to Parliament by Baroness Jenny Jones of the Green Party on 25th January 2023.** This landmark legislation, formally known as the Clean Air (Human Rights) Bill, aims to enshrine the right to clean air in UK law and address the public health crisis caused by air pollution.

## **The Origins and Purpose of Ella's Law**

Ella's Law is named after Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah, a nine-year-old girl from South London who tragically died in 2013 due to severe asthma exacerbated by air pollution. Her case marked the first time in the UK that air pollution was officially listed as a cause of death. Ella's mother, Rosamund Adoo-Kissi-Debrah, has since become a prominent campaigner for clean air, advocating for stricter regulations to protect public health.

The bill seeks to establish a legal framework ensuring that air quality meets World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines. It also mandates government action to reduce pollution levels and holds public bodies accountable for maintaining clean air standards.

## **Key Provisions of Ella's Law**

1. **Right to Clean Air:** The bill enshrines the right to breathe clean air as a fundamental human right.
2. **Legally Binding Targets:** It requires the government to set legally binding targets to reduce air pollution in line with WHO guidelines.
3. **Public Accountability:** Local authorities and public bodies must monitor air quality and take proactive measures to improve it.
4. **Public Awareness:** The bill mandates public education campaigns on the dangers of air pollution and steps individuals can take to reduce their exposure.
5. **Cross-Sector Collaboration:** It encourages collaboration between government departments, local authorities, and private entities to tackle air pollution comprehensively.

## **The Role of Baroness Jenny Jones**

Baroness Jenny Jones, a long-standing environmental campaigner and member of the Green Party, has been a vocal advocate for cleaner air and sustainable living. Her introduction of Ella's Law reflects her commitment to addressing environmental issues and protecting public health.

Jones has emphasised the urgency of tackling air pollution, stating, "Clean air is not a luxury; it is a basic human right. Ella's Law is a crucial step towards ensuring that no one else suffers as Ella did."

## **The Impact of Ella's Law**

If passed, Ella's Law could transform the UK's approach to air quality, setting a precedent for other nations. It would:

- Reduce health inequalities by ensuring cleaner air in disadvantaged communities.
- Save lives by preventing pollution-related illnesses such as asthma, heart disease, and lung cancer.
- Promote sustainable urban planning and transport policies.

- Encourage innovation in clean energy and pollution control technologies.

## **Challenges and Opposition**

While Ella's Law has garnered widespread support from environmental groups and public health advocates, it faces challenges in Parliament. Critics argue that the bill's stringent targets could place a financial burden on businesses and local authorities. However, proponents counter that the long-term benefits of cleaner air far outweigh the initial costs.

**Take action today to support cleaner air initiatives and advocate for policies that protect public health.**

## **The Context of Air Pollution in the UK**

Air pollution is a silent killer, responsible for an estimated 40,000 premature deaths annually in the UK. Major pollutants include nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), primarily emitted by vehicles, industrial processes, and domestic heating.

Urban areas are particularly affected, with London, Birmingham, and Manchester consistently exceeding WHO air quality guidelines. Vulnerable groups, such as children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions, are disproportionately impacted.

## **The Science Behind Air Pollution**

Air pollution affects the body in multiple ways. Fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) can penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream, causing inflammation and oxidative stress. Long-term exposure is linked to respiratory diseases, cardiovascular problems, and even cognitive decline.

## **The Political Landscape**

Ella's Law represents a significant shift in environmental policy, moving from voluntary measures to legally enforceable standards. It aligns with the UK's broader climate goals, including the commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

## **The Role of Public Advocacy**

Rosamund Adoo-Kissi-Debrah's tireless campaigning has been instrumental in raising awareness about the dangers of air pollution. Her efforts have inspired grassroots movements and influenced policymakers, demonstrating the power of individual advocacy in driving systemic change.

## **Future Implications**

Ella's Law could pave the way for similar legislation globally, encouraging nations to prioritise air quality as a public health issue. It also highlights the need for interdisciplinary approaches, combining environmental science, public health, and urban planning to create sustainable solutions.

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**Support Ella's Law and join the fight for cleaner air - because everyone deserves the right to breathe freely.**