

Do-Hyun Kim et al. v. South Korea case : Campaign Strategy and Experiences

The Biggest Change

We Believed Possible

Youth 4 Climate Action
Borim Kim, Seogyung Kim

Youth4
Climate
Action
청소년기후행동

What motivated Y4CA
to file the case?

The Bare Minimum to Keep us Alive

우리 삶을 지킬 최저선의 요구



Youth4
Climate
Action
청소년기후행동

- **Youth 4 Climate Action(Y4CA)** is an organization that creates change that will reduce the level of risk of the climate crisis, change that will ensure that no one is othered in the crisis and that lives are safe.
 - 7 years of organizing for climate justice (since 2018)
 - About 1,000 members are joining our group, mainly youth nationally.
 - An Organization Where 90% Of Members Are Youth
 - Fridays For Future South Korea
- **Vision**
 - Reducing the risk of climate change
 - Create a society with public and social safety nets
 - So that ensure that no one is left behind in a climate crisis
- **Mission**
 - A systemic approach, not just the spotlight of everyday practice : making real policy and political change.
 - Increase access to information about the climate crisis.
 - Create a space for public engagement where everyone is an agent of change.
- **Organizational direction**
 - An organization that proves that prove ordinary people can use their voices to make a difference without becoming experts or vested interest, and that it can lead to public opinion.
 - Organizations that can translate people's desire to be better into possible outcomes based on clear goals and accessibility.
 - Organizations that can persuade a wide range of people by providing consistent, clear goals and a universal, compelling context and story.







노동자를 서울특별시 노동자협회는 세종문화회관
동일 직장내 차별없이 동일임금제도 시행하고 동일근로조건 보장 실현하라!

법상없는 후임으로 반드시
법외노조 퇴권회소-해고자 원퇴복직-노동3권 쟁취!

자구상정
기종

기후위기
침묵은
그만

석탄발전소
말고 우리 미래
지켜라

YONHAP NEWS

March 15, 2019, South Korea's first climate strike (200 people participated)



September 27, 2019, South Korea's third climate strike (700 people participated)



September 27, 2019, South Korea's third climate strike (700 people participated)







Y4CA has called on the **Seoul superintendent** to change the ordinance to prevent education budgets from being invested in coal finance, expand vegetarian meals options, increase climate education, and make school facilities more energy efficient.



May 24, 2019, South Korea's second climate strike

[Wording on the picket]
: **“Respond,
Superintendent!**





The Seoul superintendent of education has decided to create an ecological transition mid- to long-term plan and amend the bylaws to assess climate impacts when deciding on the district's banking partners. This decision has led to changes in more than 14 school boards across the country.

Wording on the picket:
The Superintendent has responded.
(Pictured: Superintendent)

Minister of Environment



Nothing has changed. The minister, who sympathized with Y4CA's needs but said it was difficult, asked us to do the latest trendy hand heart (our shameful memory.. 🤔).



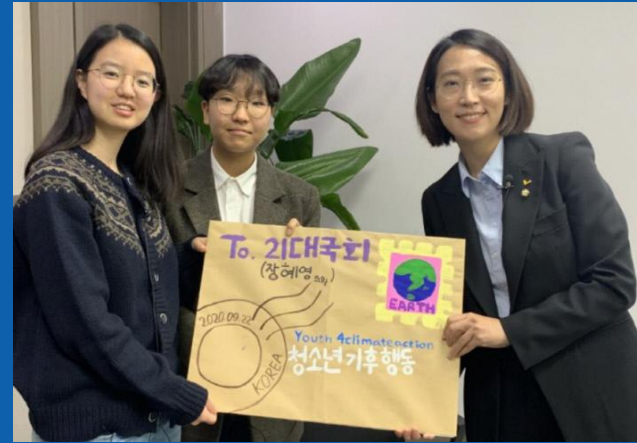
On March 13, 2020, We filed Constitutional Complaint. It is the first climate litigation in Asia, filed by 19 youth from Y4CA as plaintiffs.



How did Y4CA campaign strategy evolve
and how did Y4CA keep the momentum
going for the five years?

March 13, 2020 Constitutional Complaint
(constitutional petition on the unconstitutionality of the provisions of
the Low Carbon Green Growth Framework Act)







대통령 직속 탄소중립위원회 민간 위원직

사퇴 선언문

청소년기후행동은 대통령 직속 탄소중립위원회의 논의 구조를 거부하며, 공식적으로 동료 활동가의 탄소중립위원회 민간위원직 사퇴를 선언합니다.

청소년기후행동 YOUTH 4 CLIMATE ACTION

March 13, 2022, additional constitutional challenge
("unconstitutionality of the Carbon Neutrality Basic Law")





March 13, 2023, 3rd year of constitutional complaint



As we refocused our strategy and our path to our goals became more defined, we were able to anticipate the possibilities for change and were empowered like never before.





기후대응 이의있음!



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기후위기방관 위험

헌법소원 심판청구서

청구인: 청소년기후행동
피청구인: 대한민국 정부

정규위시

무해할한 기후정책
원할정 기본권 침해
침해된 권리
안전하고 행복한 미래를 보장 권리를



**기후대응
이의있음**

존경하는 재판장님,
 기후위기는
 문제입니다.
 제 말을 들어주세요.

나의 기후위기 이야기 한 마디
 0 / 45

가 이루 말할
 수 없습니다.

재판장님, 기후위기는 세계 문제입니다. 기후위기는 단지 날씨가 더워지는 문제가 아니고, 사회경제적으로 차별적인 위기로 닥치는데, 기후위기가 마치 없는 듯 행동하는 정부의 모습에 황당함이 이루말할 수 없습니다. 인간적으로 위한 판결 내려주시시오.

- 2024년 5월 31일 보리



기후 헌법소원

국민참여의견서



국민 5,289명, 청소년기후행동

헌법재판소 귀중

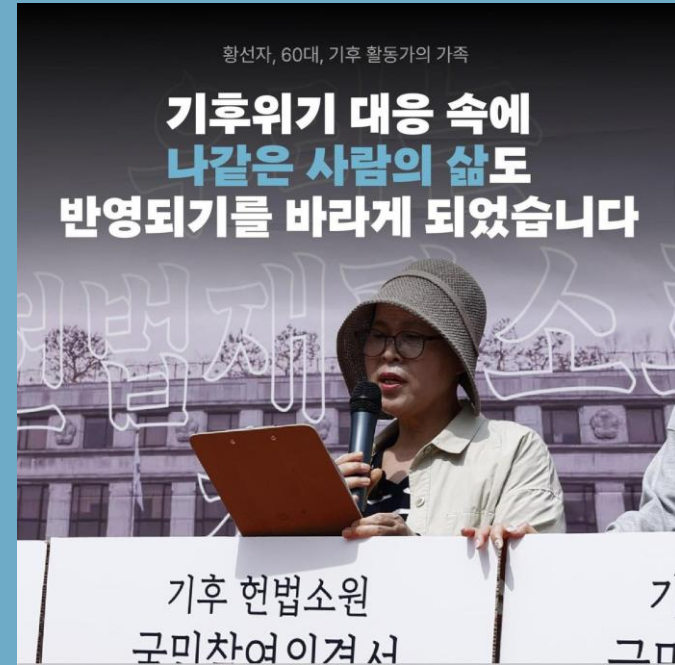
Y4CA's Attitudes and Perspectives

Toward the Litigation that has Never Changed

- **This is a litigation that goes beyond the law and expertise to engage societal interests.**
 - This is not just about the plaintiffs. While plaintiffs are important as contextualizers of the case, it should not be their case alone.
 - This litigation cannot generate attention and change through the claims themselves. Delegation or neglect is the most harmful, irresponsible, and arrogant way to approach a climate constitutional complaint.
- **This case must be about building popular support, not just spewing pointed words.**
 - It's about context, accessibility, and empowering the people who will be part of the process.
 - It shouldn't be a case of saying whatever we want to say. Blanket accusations, demands, objectification, and othering can ruin the outcome.
- **Use subjectivity and messaging strategies to create behaviors that move us closer to our goals**
 - Continue social messaging → Expand our strategy to include in-court interventions
 - There may be no momentum. Build on our strategy to create the momentum we need.

What was most challenging and what was the biggest lesson?

focus on my personal experience as a campaigner



Challenge

- Campaigns that need to be taken with a long breath
 - if we don't pitch a new perspective, item to the media, it's hard to get any more social attention
 - One-off, temporary campaign approach makes it difficult to build momentum and effective strategy for the case.
- The complexity of the climate crisis, low access to the law, a long list of difficult legal terms, and too many breaths of air make it difficult to use only legal terms and concepts to gain public understanding.
 - Our case is also a social case, so unpacking the context of the case is essential when approaching a public campaign. It was not just about what is this case, but about creating a space for public engagement based on sufficient accessibility.

Lesson

- The strength of creating a space, making it accessible, and inviting people in.
- The power of rights-centered messaging that can be translated into the most everyday stories rather than a conceptual list of rights
- That our attitude was right. Ignoring litigation, or hoping that claims alone will do the trick, doesn't create the change we want.
- The advantage of having a long-term goal mapped out (Long-term strategic path beyond 10 months)
- A sense of the mass movement that can be created **through a constitutional complaint**
- **Sense** of a long breathing campaign

**what Y4CA would like to share
with other youth campaigners
preparing similar case?**

- Just delegate and neglected litigation, a litigation that does not consider the necessary messaging, will ruin more opportunities for us. We should have a different messaging strategy and approach for our target (judges) and our target audience (the public).
- Climate litigation as a tactic that cannot be overused
- The efficacy of judicial climate action, also identified in Our Case → More litigation around the world → More likely to mobilize/involve people in well-designed litigation. (by limitation of information and accessibility, etc.) → However, these cases may now suffer from more backlash or have difficulty gaining social support (a limitation of the way they mobilize and otherize in the first place) → Without considering subjectivity and messaging, social litigation wins are unlikely to drive change beyond what we have now.



유엔
협약이 없다

준엄을 갖춘
강국은 가능해

국제인권규약
준수할지 지켜본다

판결공포
15대온사
15대온사

탄소중립기본법
위헌
위헌

모두들
위한 헌법
지킬 작

기후위기
방관은 위헌

난 크고 너
작은
15대온사

살아갈 권리

기후 헌법소원 최종 선고 공동 기자회견
Press Conference on the Final Decision of the Korean Climate Litigation
판결은 끝이 아닌 기후 대응의 시작
Final Decision : Climate Action Begins Today
2024년 8월 29일 | 헌법재판소 앞 | 청소년기후소송, 시민기후소송, 아기기후소송, 탄소중립기본법소송

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