

## **Support Zanes Law**

Zane Gbanbola died on February 8<sup>th</sup> in hospital, aged just 7 years of age. His father Kye suffered a cardiac arrest and was left paralysed.

Floodwater from the river Thames had passed through a landfill site near their home. This had moved runoff into the bases of residential homes.

The runoff contained several chemicals but Hydrogen Cyanide, (HCN) was detected by the Fire Service, hazardous materials team. This gassed off into the house creating a major incident.

Zane and his father Kye were affected and rescued. Fire fighters and others were withdrawn from the immediate area.

Sadly, Zane passed away and his father was left permanently paralysed.

The landfill site in this incident was a known risk to the Environment agency, (EA), Local Authority, (LA) and Planning Departments. It had been classed as “high risk to life”

Local residents were unaware of the risks in their area.

LA will still not fully test the landfill site in this incident, even though further floods have occurred in the area.

## **Why Do We Need Zanes Law**

We have several contaminated and toxic sites in our area. Many are a result of industrial legacy, and some are a result of poor management and control.

Are these sites dangerous, tested, monitored and risk assessed?

Several pieces of legislation have been passed Nationally and Regionally and in most parts of the UK we have appointed Independent Environmental Watchdogs, (Temporary appointment in Wales), to observe environmental protection and compliance. Yet incidents are still occurring.

Key legislation passed has been watered down by successive Governments i.e. "The Control of Pollution Act 1974 and "The Environmental Protection Act 1990"

With much of the protective issues contained in the original legislation eroded and UK out of sync with other countries.

## **What Would Zanes Law Do**

Seek to establish improved management and control of hazards from landfill or contaminated sites.

Align UK with best practice on environmental protection to safeguard communities and the environment.

Seek to reinforce the intent and provisions in the "Environment Protection Act 1990".

Establish the United Nations position and resolution, “The human right to clean, healthy and sustainable environment, 2022”.

Require: ---

- Each LA to establish a register of land which may be contaminated.
- NRW or EA hold a public National register of contaminated land, updated by LA.
- Registers to be maintained accessible to general public.
- LA to inspect all registered sites and organise or enforce remediation if harm or pollution is poised.
- Closed landfill sites must be monitored by LA.
- Governments must support LA with remediation costs. Yet seek to recover costs from the polluter.

## **Update On Zanes Law**

- October 2024 Zanes father called at 10 Downing Street to give Sir Kier Stammer a Birthday Card for Zane. Calling on the Prime Minister to do the right thing and support Zanes Law as he promised when in opposition.
- Petition exceeds 18K signatures in 2024 in support of Zanes Law.
- Trade Union support increases: ---  
FBU, TUC, Unison, Communication Workers Union and National Education Union.
- Parliamentary lead on Hillsborough Law demands urgency on passing Zanes Law.

- Green Party conference supports and endorses Zanes Law in September 2024.
- Local Authority support increasing e.g. Stroud District Council, Brighton and Hove City Council, Adur District Council, Lewes District Council and Rother District Council.
- Zanes Law supported by Baroness Natalie Bennett and launched at COP26.

**Cllr Steve Skivens**