To: [r.black@bham.ac.uk](mailto:r.black@bham.ac.uk) ; [c.mangan@bham.ac.uk](mailto:c.mangan@bham.ac.uk)

Dear Professor Black and Professor Magan,

I’m writing to you to ask that the College of Social Sciences takes steps to recognise the climate emergency and include a strand of sustainable development goals within the curriculum. In November 2019, The Climate Commission for UK Higher and Further Education Leaders called on all their member institutions to recognise this growing crisis and take concrete actions. Many colleges, universities, local authorities, governments and NGOs have already done so. This crisis is real, and closer to home than many realise. The coastal village of Fairbourne in Wales, captured press attention last year, after being told by the Government that there was no long term solution to the growing flooding risk they face beyond them moving out – they were subsequently labeled the UK’s first climate change refugees.

We ask therefore as practitioners of Social Sciences, that our College take steps to recognize this crisis and equip us as their students to respond to it when we enter the world of work. There are many issues that are highly relevant to our disciplines, such as building sustainable business practices, educating the next generation to be more environmentally aware, the huge social policy challenges that climate change brings, and the response of governments to this threat.

The NUS recently found that nearly 90% of students would like to learn more about sustainability as part of the curriculum; in the University of Birmingham fewer than half of students agree that this happens currently according to recent research by the Guild of Students. The United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals could provide our schools with the framework to identify relevant areas for the various disciplines in the college that contribute to building a more sustainable and just world.

We know that there is demand for climate change and sustainability awareness in the world of work too. In 2010 the United Nations found that 93% of CEOs saw Sustainability as important to their company’s future business; and 80% of CEOs believed the tipping point where the majority of companies have fully integrated sustainability is only a few years away.

I look forward to receiving your reply on this issue that is very important to me.

Kind regards,

<ENTER NAME>