Ever had one of those days when you wish you’d never been born? Mumbai businessman, Raphael Samuel, has them all the time. The 27-year-old Indian man is so fed up with life, he plans to sue his parents for allowing him to be born. There are only two cast-iron certainties in life: birth and death. And it goes without saying that we have no choice in either. Yet Samuel believes he is entitled to sue his parents for giving birth to him without his consent. Asking a fetus for permission may sound like a tall order, but Samuel believes he has a rock-solid case. He understands that our consent cannot be obtained before birth. Nevertheless, he believes “It was not our decision to be born.” For Samuel, forcing a child into the world is akin to slavery. For he believes humanity has no future. He stresses that our planet would be far better off if we were extinct. For humans are an unnecessary burden on the Earth’s resources. Although he never wanted to be born, Samuel is not unhappy with his life. He compares it to a nice room. Yet he insists he doesn’t want to be in that room. Samuel’s parents are both lawyers. His mother said if he can provide a valid reason how they could have asked for his consent before being born, she will accept full responsibility. Samuel concedes that his case will be thrown out by any judge worth their salt. He said he wants to file the case just to make a point. Samuel’s belief is rooted in the philosophy of anti-natalism; a school of thought which believes people are so full of misery, they should stop having babies. According to the United Nations, by the year 2100, there will be 11 billion people on Earth. It’s predicted the strain on the planet will be immense. Anti-natalists believe the only solution is for people to stop being born. However, some believe the grim predictions of future over-population are way off track. A new book called Empty Planet states that in three decades the global population will start to decline. And it will keep declining indefinitely. The reason? Education. The authors interviewed women all over the globe, from the slums of Delhi to New York penthouses. And their conclusion was a stark one: the single biggest effect on fertility rates is the education of women. The authors write that the most important reproductive organ is the mind. If you can change how someone thinks about reproduction, you change everything. And while suing your parents is not going to save the planet, perhaps universal education can win the day.

Thirty-six-year-old Nick Vujicic has hit a home run in the game of life. He’s happily married with four beautiful children. He’s a motivational speaker who travels the world, an international bestselling author, and an award-winning actor. He even finds time to paint, swim, skydive, surf, and play golf. Nick was also born with no arms and no legs. The son of Serbian immigrants to Australia, Nick was born with a rare disorder that only seven people in the world have. He has two small, deformed feet, one of which he calls his ‘chicken drumstick’ for the way it looks. The toes on that foot were surgically separated, allowing him to use them as fingers to grab things. Needless to say, life growing up in Melbourne was no walk in the park for Nick. Not only were the physical challenges enormous, but he also struggled mentally and emotionally. As Nick explains, “When I was eight years old, I sort of summed up my life and thought, I’m never going to get married. I’m not going to have a job. I’m not going to have a life of purpose.” Bullied at school, he once tried to commit suicide at the age of 10. But at some point, Nick realized that feeling sorry for himself wasn’t the solution. “When you concentrate on the things you wish you had or the things you wish you didn’t have, you forget what you do have. When that clicked, it was like a light bulb just flashed in my brain. I was like, hey, now I see life as an opportunity.” Once he realized how grateful he was for what he had, nothing could stop Nick from achieving his dreams. Nick no longer sees himself as a disabled person. Disability is something stopping you from being able to do something. And in Nick’s life, it seems that there is hardly anything he hasn’t been able to do. One of his greatest achievements is the non-profit organization he founded, called Life Without Limbs. Through it, he campaigns against bullying by giving motivational talks on stage. Over the years, he’s inspired millions of people in over 57 countries to find happiness by realizing how fortunate they are. It’s been a rocky road, but Nick now lives a life more joyful and more fulfilling than most non-disabled people. As Nick says, “No arms, no legs, no worries, mate!”