

# *The Yogis for the River Ganga Declaration to Protect and Preserve the Lifeline of Millions*

*We, the people of the world, do hereby unite  
to take a stand for the majestic and holy Ganga River.*

*It is from the banks of the Ganga that the art and practice of yoga was born.  
Her waters have supported the growth of civilizations, have inspired poets, saints and sages.  
She is the lifeline for some 500 million people, as well as for countless species  
of plants and animals, some of which can be found no place else on this Earth.*

*We, as travellers to and within India, expect Her waters to be clean and serene.  
We expect them to nourish us and to inspire us.*

*Yet, we see rubbish mar Her banks and lyrical flow. We learn of billions of litres of sewage and  
toxic chemicals that are permitted to foul Her waters every day. In some places, we are  
startled to see that there is no Ganga at all, because Her waters have been diverted or  
extracted to the point in which there is nothing left but dry rocks and parched dreams.*

*The Ganga is a global symbol, which ties us all together.  
She is a reason for our travels, the muse of countless songs.*

*We feel Her pain as our own.*

*The pollution and depletion of the flow of Mother Ganga is not just violating Her rights,  
but violating the rights all people and beings who depend on Her and travel to see Her.*

*We have gathered to commit ourselves towards protecting the Ganga and Her tributaries  
and to recognize Her rights to flow free and clean in order to nourish us,  
as well as to provide healthy lives and sustainable livelihoods for all who depend on Her.*

*Today and hereafter, we raise our voices in the spirit of peaceful fellowship,  
so that the glorious Ganga River might be protected and preserved for this and  
all future generations through the coming together of all people.*

*We hereby declare, Ganga's Rights are Our Rights, and we urge Parliament to pass  
the National Ganga River Rights Act, so that all may have access to plentiful, clean water.*

*We also affirm that all water is our water and will do all we can to protect and  
preserve the rivers and water sources of our home areas, and to protect the environment  
through sustainable practices such as the planting of trees wherever in the world we may live.*

