




TOWARDS A GLOBAL ETHIC: An Initial Declaration

 **PARLIAMENT** A Landmark Document
OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS. in Interfaith Cooperation



“Towards a Global Ethic: An Initial Declaration,” the Parliament of the World’s Religions’ signature document since 1993, expresses the minimal set of ethical commitments shared by the world’s religions, spiritual, and cultural traditions.

Though it emerged from the religions, the Global Ethic is a secular document containing no religious or theological language. It is based on two ancient guidelines:

- 1) *Every human being must be treated humanely*
- 2) *The Golden Rule*

The Global Ethic sets forth the values and principles that all human beings already hold in common, each on the basis of their own religious and ethical grounds.



“WE HAVE HERE A MINIMUM ETHIC WHICH, I BELIEVE, IS NECESSARY FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THIS EARTH...”

-- Prof. Hans Küng, principal author of the Global Ethic

THE COMMITMENTS OF THE GLOBAL ETHIC

The Global Ethic's commitments can be affirmed by all person, whether religious or not.

1

Respect for Life

All people have a right to life, safety, and the free development of personality insofar as they do not injure the rights of others.

2

Economic Justice

No one has the right to rob or dispossess in any way whatsoever any other person or the commonweal. Further, no one has the right to use her or his possessions without concern for the needs of society and Earth.



3

Truth and Compassion

We must courageously serve the truth and we must remain constant and trustworthy, instead of yielding to opportunistic accommodation to life.

4

Women's Rights

No one has the right to degrade others to mere sex objects, to lead them into or hold them in sexual dependency.

5

Care for the Earth

The Earth, with its finite resources, is shared by our own human family. It sustains us and many forms of life, and call for our respect and care.



“REGARDLESS OF WHETHER WE BELONG TO A RELIGION, WE ALL HAVE A FUNDAMENTAL AND PROFOUNDLY HUMAN WELLSPRING OF ETHICS WITHIN OURSELVES. WE NEED TO NURTURE THAT SHARED ETHICAL BASIS.”

--His Highness, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama,
a 1993 signatory of the Global Ethic

HISTORY

In the early 1990s, over 200 scholars and religious leaders from many of the world's religious and regions collaborated on the Global Ethic to identify the values and principles they hold in common. In 1993, and again in 2018, thousands of attendees at the Parliament's international convenings endorsed the Global Ethic by acclamation. People from all over the world have signed the Global Ethic to show their support.

The Global Ethic does not seek to replace the ethics of the individual religious, spiritual, or cultural traditions or to create a single dominant ideology. Rather, it affirms that these traditions already agree on a core set of values and that these values are found in their teachings.

**Read & Endorse
the Global Ethic Today!**

Visit ParliamentOfReligions.org/GlobalEthic



**“THE WORLD IS IN AGONY.
PEACE ELUDES US...THE PLANET IS
BEING DESTROYED...NEIGHBORS
LIVE IN FEAR...WOMEN AND MEN ARE
ESTRANGED FROM EACH OTHER...
CHILDREN DIE!
THIS IS ABHORRENT!**

**THERE ALREADY EXIST ANCIENT
GUIDELINES FOR HUMAN BEHAVIOR
WHICH ARE FOUND IN THE TEACHINGS
OF THE RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD AND
WHICH ARE THE CONDITION FOR A
SUSTAINABLE WORLD ORDER.**




**THEREFORE WE COMMIT OURSELVES
TO THIS GLOBAL ETHIC, TO
UNDERSTANDING ONE ANOTHER, AND
TO SOCIALLY BENEFICIAL, PEACE-
FOSTERING, AND NATURE-FRIENDLY
WAYS OF LIFE.**

**WE INVITE ALL PEOPLE, WHETHER
RELIGIOUS OR NOT, TO DO THE SAME.”**

-- From the Declaration of a Global Ethic



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