

Woes
of the
world!

Planet Earth, the home of all living things and life as we know it, is in mortal danger. Fundamentalist religious fanaticism, greed, and exploits of empire, have brought us to this brink. The Humanist Philosophy respects and embraces the efforts of all caring persons, of all faiths, of all ethnicities, of all traditions, of all nations, who take responsibility, for trying to make changes to improve the perilous conditions of Humankind, working together to foster understanding among the diverse Peoples of Earth, working toward the development of a respectful, lawful, equitable, compassionate and care-taking Culture of Peace that most of Earth's Peoples long for. Strangely, some beliefs hold to ancient notions of vengeful deities that champion one segment of humanity over another, giving rise to fears and hatreds, militarism, fascism, violence, vengeance, exploitation, inequities, and injustices that still abound, endangering our survival as a species, jeopardizing the lives of our children, grandchildren and all future generations.

I am concerned about this danger and, as an individual, I have the power to raise my own voice in protest. I value Life; I love my own Family and the larger family of Humankind. I revere the Human Species, and believe in the right to peaceful pursuit of individual and societal happiness. I pledge to support the ideals of a Culture of Peace, and will encourage others to do likewise. I, therefore, pledge to take responsibility to promote the following Human Survival Principles:

I, personally, and as a representative of my own ethical perspective, life-stance or faith, pledge to act with courage, in all ways short of violence, to renounce and thwart the various adverse forces that have gained the power to dominate Earth and its inhabitants. I renounce all systems of repression, whether by government or economic control. I support only systems that are in the best shared-interest of all of Earth's Peoples and of Earth itself.

I, personally, renounce violence and vengeance as an option to redress grievances for wrongs done to me, my people, or my ancestors. I pledge to seek justice and compensation, never before feasible, through pursuit of new lawful means, consistent with the recognized principles of the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations' Responsibility to Protect, and the newly established International Criminal Court. These new tools must be fostered and ultimately established, for all times, promoting the pursuit of justice in every village and in every community. No longer will there be impunity for perpetrators of Crimes against Humanity. There will now be justice in the Courts! I pledge to support this goal.

I agree that technology, medicine, science and biology must be harnessed to serve only the best interests of all Humankind, whether it be our means of communicating freely with each other in the pursuit of truth and democracy, and the sharing of information regarding our common interests, or for the creation of power sources that do not damage Earth's ecosystem or harm living things. Biotechnology must not modify or claim ownership of Earth's bounty, and the benefits to Humankind in all of these areas must not be tied to a corrupt and capricious profit motive, enslaving the many and ignoring the most needy.

I pledge to work in behalf of the survival and best interests of Humankind right here and now, because I believe in the basic goodness of other human beings. I will willingly join with them in order to help to create a Culture of Peace, regardless of any known traditional beliefs that aspire to other worlds or any belief in endtimes scenarios. I will not allow my name or my belief to be used to endorse actions that are contrary to my own personal beliefs. I will not allow my faith to be conscripted or construed in order to justify support for actions that are harmful to others, such as seeking retaliation and vengeance, or to justify terrorist acts, or the making of war against alleged and illusory enemies, with whom I have no quarrel. If my tradition aspires to a Heaven elsewhere, I will surely have earned my place in it as a Peacemaker. Meanwhile, I will do my best to help make Peace on Earth, and to keep my pledge in behalf of the Human Survival Principles. In doing so, I reach out my hand in respect for others of good will, showing that I hold no weapon or animosity, and expect that others will do likewise. I recognize that we humans are more alike than we are different.

These Human Survival Principles are logical and important to me. I'm adding my name to many others online at this Web site.

www.humanvalues.net/blog/?p=35

Comments can be posted anonymously and this blog can be used as a forum for communication. Registration is necessary if you wish to be contacted. Feel free to duplicate this document. Disperse it widely. Please discuss these important issues with others, and take action.

More information awaits your discovery on these Web sites:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights www.un.org/Overview/rights.html
- ➤ Humanist Manifesto I, II, and III www.americanhumanist.org/humanism/
- ➤ The Philosophy of Humanism www.corliss-lamont.org/philos8.htm
- ➤ The Humanist Magazine www.thehumanist.org
- Human Values Network www.humanvalues.net

For more information about Humanism, The Humanist magazine, or the American Humanist Association, including how to locate other Humanists in your area, please contact:

American Humanist Association 1777 T Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20009-7125 (202) 238-9088 (800) 837-3792 FAX (202) 238-9003 www.americanhumanist.org

For more information about Humanist and Ethical involvement in efforts and activities at the United Nations, please contact:

Council of Ethics-Based Organizations Associated with The Department of Public Information of the United Nations www.cebo.org

Humanism is a philosophy for the Here and Now. We Humans have evolved on Earth. We've made a terrible mess of things. Humanists say there's no one "up there" who's going to save us! But, we're not alone in the universe; we have each other. We must take responsibility for Human problems. With compassion, rational thought, logic and justice, we give meaning to our lives. With courage we can create a Culture of Peace. We have the power to create a "heaven." Perhaps we can learn to behave ethically and to treat our Earth and all of its inhabitants with respect. Humanists continue to work passionately for Peace on Earth. We have nowhere else in the whole universe to go!