

DECLARATION OF SOCIAL CONSCIENCE

*We hereby make **the personal, political and conscious choice** to live by these principles of social justice.*

- All people on earth are interdependent and interconnected.
- Acceptance, empathy, kindness and forgiveness are sustainable values of human community.
- All human beings are spiritual, defined as a great mystery, while leading human lives that are physically bound by the basic limitations of birth, death and disease, yet distinguished by conscious awareness of one's own existence.
- Earth is our shared home and our well-being is fundamentally linked to the tending of the well-being of Earth.
- Care of ourselves, each other, and our environment are inextricably interrelated.
- All human beings require equal justice to be guaranteed by due process of the law as delineated in *The Bill of Rights* with protection from unwarranted invasion of privacy, violation of personal security, and unreasonable detention or arrest.
- All women should be guaranteed reproductive rights that include the legal ability to decide whether and when to have children, and to make their own choices regarding birth control and pregnancy.
- The freedoms of religion, speech, press and peaceful assembly are fundamental to social democracy, our governing system of choice.
- Equal opportunity and access to legal benefits and protections, public office, and gainful employment should be available to all qualified citizens regardless of sexual orientation, socio-economic status, gender or race.
- All citizens of the world could and should have access to affordable healthcare and a quality education, focused on lifelong critical thinking skills.
- Elimination of genocide, abject poverty, and starvation for all people on Earth should be the reigning priority of government.
- Corporations are not individual human beings and should be subject to regulation that ensures the closure of loopholes in the exercise of social, political, environmental and financial responsibility and accountability.
- Equitable regulation of lobbying, media access and campaign finance should facilitate a true political dialectic and public discourse on human need and challenges to world community.
- Fruitful transformation of human society requires tolerance of disturbance, awareness, and capacity for grief and joy in order to yield compassionate change.
- Truth, trust, and transparency are essential to healthy representational leadership and government.
- Difference, questioning, dissent, negotiation and reconciliation are requisites for an effective political and legislative process.
- Peace in the world is dependent on personal and interpersonal commitment to finding peace within us and should be the number one value of all communication and diplomacy.