

# **Earth Charter Statement of Beliefs & Values**

## **Jenny**

### **I. RESPECT AND CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF LIFE**

I respect the Earth and its diversity of life forms, believing that we are all interdependent, whatever form we take. I am a lifelong vegetarian and avoid killing any plant, insect or other being.

Throughout my life, I have sought to treat everyone with respect, irrespective of race, creed, sexuality, ability or any other characteristic.

I recognise that the right to own and manage natural resources is accompanied by the responsibility to protect the environment and other people. I try to use my knowledge and experience to promote the common good. This is primarily through my teaching and my work on the destigmatisation of mental illness.

### **II. ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY**

I uphold the value of ecological integrity and wish to leave the earth in a sustainable condition for future generations through their ethical decisions. There are some areas where individuals can, and I do, attempt to make a small difference e.g. in avoiding waste of natural and manufactured resources. However, I recognise that many of the decisions and actions required in this respect are beyond the direct control of individuals other than by exercising their ballot or by political activism. I am not inclined to engage in the latter but take my electoral role very seriously.

I value diversity and support the preservation of different cultures, including religions. I abhor war, but accept that conflict is inherent in nature and hence a necessary part of life.

### **III. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

Belief in social and economic justice is fundamental to my life and work as a teacher. I believe education provides individuals with the means to self-determination. I favour equality of opportunity and achievement based on merit rather than positive discrimination.

Having reach retirement age, I am able to devote time to supporting those in less favourable economic or social positions to gain knowledge and skills that prepare them for advancement.

### **IV. DEMOCRACY, NONVIOLENCE, AND PEACE**

I oppose violence in any form and use my power as a voter to secure a sound political environment for this country. I recognise that I can have little direct control over how those elected exercise their responsibilities to the nation and among nations.

I profoundly support the right to freedom of expression and dissent but believe this must be exercised with respect for difference.

I believe in the centrality of family as a means of cultural transmission and social cohesion.

I have sought to strengthen communities throughout my long career in teaching, mostly in areas of social deprivation and diverse cultures. This requires understanding and tolerance of different beliefs and customs.

Whilst I despise war, I am realistic about the needs for self-defence and deterrence. I support the aspiration for a world without arms but do not believe it is achievable as we do not have the power to constrain nations determined on the development and use of such weapons. I recognise that ideologies cannot be overturned through negotiation or aggression alone.

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