I wanted to start by thanking everyone around the world participating in Global Ethics Day 2021.

I don’t believe it’s hyperbole to say that this past year has been one of the most challenging ever when considered as a matter of history. We’ve confronted the spread of COVID-19, responded to attacks on democracy, struggled with racial injustice, and battled climate change. It’s clear that humanity faces a number of global-scale challenges. Although this moment may feel overwhelming, make no mistake, we are not helpless. Today as always, we have the power to reshape and improve our world.

History has shown us that progress is not only possible but probable when we think in a principled way and commit to ethical action. Just look at what has been accomplished in the past 100 years. However imperfect and unfinished, we’ve seen the rise of great movements for civil rights and human rights; environmental awareness; and global campaigns to address poverty, illiteracy, and public health. In order to face the issues of today, while simultaneously building a better tomorrow, we must work together to empower ethics.

But you may be asking what is ethics? And how can ethics be used as a tool to create a better future? Simply put, ethics is the code you live by. And you have the ability to make up your own mind about that code. Ethics is not about getting everyone to agree on one way to live or even a single set of values. It’s about acknowledging and accepting differences while recognizing what is common in the human experience.

This idea is at the heart of Global Ethics Day. At Carnegie Council, we believe that ethics sit at the center of our greatest global challenges and that by working to empower ethics, society can discover common values and
by working to empower ethics, society can discover common values and interests that lead to a better future. This Global Ethics Day, we invite you and your friends, family, classmates, and colleagues together with schools, businesses, and institutions around the globe to join us in taking ethical action and showcasing those efforts.

Whether it’s simply reflecting on your own ethical code, organizing a Zoom discussion with colleagues on ethics in the workplace, or tweeting about what ethics mean to you—these are just a few of the ways that individuals and organizations can participate in #GlobalEthicsDay2021. Together, let’s use today as a moment to empower ethics and build a better future! Stay safe and be well.

To hear more from Joel Rosenthal, join our Global Ethics Day Special Event: On The Frontlines of Democracy today at 12:00PM ET.

Special Global Ethics Day Content from our Initiatives

Carnegie Council’s Artificial Intelligence & Equality Initiative (AIEI) posted several new articles ahead of Global Ethics Day 2021. First, Senior Fellow Wendell Wallach asks hard questions in the article “Are You Actually Interested in AI Ethics?” He writes, “Are you committed to improving the world? Or do you merely want to get better at using the language of ethics to justify the things you’re doing anyway?” Additionally, AIEI launched a new content series, “The Technosocial Contract,” that examines the 21st century relationship between technologies and society. Check out the first and second articles in the series by Tom Philbeck, AIEI senior program advisor.

The Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative (C2G) posted a special video message in celebration of Global Ethics Day. “Ethics could not be more fundamental to the work that we do and we encourage all of those on Global Ethics Day to consider how ethics matter in your life, in the issues that you may be working on, and in the future for our children and future generations,” says Cynthia Scharf, senior strategy director for C2G.

The editors of Ethics & International Affairs, the journal of Carnegie Council, are pleased to offer an array of resources in a special Global Ethics Day reading list for anyone looking to learn more about ethics and some of the key issues of our time. Whether you are interested in global health, climate change, inequality and global justice, artificial intelligence, the changing world order—or all of the above—you will find plenty to dig into. The articles are free to access through November 2021 thanks to Cambridge University Press.

U.S. Global Engagement Senior Fellows Nikolas Gvosdev and Tatiana Serafin curated their most impactful interviews for this Global Ethics Day edition of the Carnegie Ethics newsletter:

- Negotiating the New START Treaty, with Rose Gottemoeller
- Can the United Nations Save the World? with Catherine Tinker
- China’s Civilian Army: The Making of Wolf Warrior Diplomacy, with Peter Martin
- How Shipping can Reenergize Globalization, with Peter Sand
- The Future of Afghanistan Roundtable Discussion, with Ali M Latifi &
Resources to Promote and Participate in Global Ethics Day

**Global Ethics Day Explainer Video**: Learn more about Global Ethics Day and how to get involved.

**Social Media Toolkit**: Use this document to help guide your social media activity for #GlobalEthicsDay2021.

**Logos**: Add these logos to your Global Ethics Day promotional materials.

**Posters**: Customize these posters and answer questions like, "What ethical issue matters the most to you?"

**Social Media Graphics**: Post these images to your social media feeds to show your commitment to an ethical future.
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