



# Global Leadership Charter

One Young World



## Introduction

At One Young World we are all about action. We aspire to nurture compassionate leaders, equipped for a globalised world. So what makes an effective, ethical leader?

We know that brilliant leaders with the solutions to global challenges, can emerge from anywhere in the world. **We believe that great leadership is not confined to any single tradition or belief system, and has many effective cultural models.**

Drawing on deep-rooted wisdom from across the world, this Charter stands as a testament to our belief that humanity shares values that resonate across cultures, and transcend political barriers, and drive our desire to build a fair and sustainable world, for the benefit of all.

## The Seven Principles



Ubuntu

**You are a person by other people**



Kuleana

**Be responsible for your actions**



Satya

**Be truthful in your actions and your words**



Ihsan

**Always strive for excellence**



Fortitude

**Be confident in your ability**



Qian

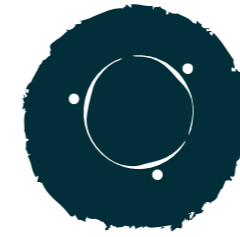
**Lead with humility**



The Seventh Generation Principle

**Act for the long term**





# Ubuntu

You are a person by other people

We are all interconnected, and we all belong - "I am because we are." Your wellbeing is connected to my wellbeing, and our actions affect the wellbeing of our communities. That's why we act with kindness, inclusivity and collaboration, as encapsulated by the Southern African philosophy ubuntu.

Ubuntu Nguni Bantu term that is commonly used in countries such as South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Zambia, among others. Ubuntu is all about community spirit and our understanding that we are all connected and dependent on one another. To drive change we must first and foremost acknowledge that we are social beings who exist in a web of relationships which can only be upheld through compassion, empathy and respect for others. For that reason, ubuntu is a philosophy that promotes inclusivity, equality and a sense of belonging for everyone - because we all have a place in our community, regardless of our differences.

**Wandile Mthiyane**  
Founder and CEO grindtea.com, Anti-Racist  
Hot Dog, and Ubuntu Design Group





## Kuleana

**Be responsible for your actions**

We are stewards of our land, community and future generations. Taking the Hawaiian concept of kuleana to our hearts, we take our responsibility seriously by making informed, compassionate decisions, being respectful, and finding strength in our community.

The principle of Kuleana is a central concept in Hawaiian culture which encompasses the idea of taking responsibility and embodying what it truly means to lead thoughtfully and respectfully, upholding the integrity of the people and places we take care of. Kuleana also extends to collective responsibility and accountability, emphasizing the importance of working together as a community to solve problems, and make decisions that benefit the collective well-being. Kuleana is achieved through collaboration, cooperation, and mutual support among community members, and it reminds us as leaders to value diverse perspectives and contributions.

**Jenna Richards**  
Business Development Manager, Aloha United Way





## Satya

**Be truthful in your actions and your words**

We believe integrity means aligning our words, thoughts and actions. The Hindu principle satya grounds us in truthfulness and authenticity, and reminds us to be mindful of the many different truths held by others. Through our transparency and sincerity we build trust.

The principle of Satya is often translated as “truth” or “truthfulness,” but its meaning goes beyond mere factual accuracy. It encourages us to strive for a state of inner truthfulness, so that we exist and act authentically, free from deception, manipulation, or harmful intentions. It is true that we all experience different truths based on our unique experiences, perceptions and beliefs. Satya teaches that we must respect the different truths of others and be mindful of our own subjectivities too. We can agree to disagree.

**Dr Radhika Batra**  
Founder and President, Every Infant Matters





## Ihsan

Always strive for excellence

Meaning goodness and excellence, the Islamic principle of ihsan encourages us to elevate our actions, seeking the very best and most beautiful way of doing things. We're willing to go the extra mile, to pay attention to details, and persevere until we master our skills.

Rooted in the Islamic idea that every action should be done as if one is in the presence of God, the principle of ihsan invites us to go beyond the bare minimum and strive for excellence so that we reach our fullest potential to be a force for good on earth. Ihsan embraces the idea that as humans we are instinctively drawn to beautiful things - from sunrises and children's laughter, to kind words and generosity. Striving for beautiful character through excellent conduct involves leaning into our intuitive sense of goodness, and can include things like giving in charity, standing against injustice, beautifying living spaces, and judging fairly, so that our actions add to the beauty of the world. Although one is perfect, we try our best to make an intentional effort to keep our standards high, fair and honourable.

**Rumaiha Al Busaidi**  
Climate Change Advocate,  
Entrepreneur, Marine Scientist





# Fortitude

Be confident in your ability

We have the conviction and courage to be bold, make tough decisions, and face up to criticism. A virtue of Christian theology, fortitude reminds us we are strong enough to keep going, do the right thing, and get things done - no matter how many obstacles are in our way.

Having personal fortitude means maintaining inner strength, building resilience and being adaptable, which are important characteristics for leaders navigating challenges in our ever-changing world. Finding our composure when others are panicking, and using our voice when others are silent, inspires trust and support from those we lead. The virtue of fortitude reminds us that we must learn to self-regulate, find healthy ways to manage our emotions and behaviours, so that we build our resilience and ability to change our minds when we need to and admit our mistakes when we make them. We all struggle sometimes, that's normal, but fortitude relies on us finding ways to better handle stress and deal with setbacks without losing hope, or compromising our integrity.

**Rory Sloan**  
Founder of ResoluteM;nds





## Qian

Lead with humility

The Chinese and Taoist precept, Qian, keeps us grounded. Encouraging us to maintain a modest, balanced and realistic self-view, by rising above our ego and embracing simplicity. We are committed to leadership free from arrogance, excessive self-importance or greed.

The virtue of qian encourages us to cultivate a sense of humility and modesty in our way of life. In Confucianism, qian is considered a virtue that reflects a person's attitude towards oneself and others. In Taoism, qian is associated with the idea of non-attachment to material things, which in practice leads to a humble approach to life and leadership. We can achieve a humble attitude of mind by recognising that for as brilliant as we are, we all have our limitations and we have no need to exaggerate our importance or achievements. This can help us stay grounded in realism and maintain a balanced self-view, and view of others, helping us to avoid arrogance or excessive self-importance. This matters to us as leaders because it can help us keep on track by keeping our mission to build a fairer world firmly at the centre of our decision-making.

**Yuhan Zheng**  
Geography PHD Student  
Ireland National University





# The Seventh Generation Principle

You are a person by other people

We look beyond immediate and short-term gain to consider the long-term impact our actions might have on the environment, society and culture. Drawing on wisdom from Native American, and many Indigenous cultures, we aim to keep seven future generations in mind.

As leaders we bear the responsibility of shaping the future of our world, and long-term sustainability is something we simply cannot afford to ignore. Keeping the Seventh Generation Principle in mind means that we take the consequences of our actions seriously, knowing that what we do now can affect many generations to come. If we choose wisely, all people and life-forms will reap the benefits of our carefully considered actions. We affirm our commitment as leaders to long-lasting action.

**Kananish McKenzie**  
Spokesperson, First Nations of  
Quebec and Labrador Youth



Our Global Leadership Charter is our framework for responsible, effective leadership. Our goal is for One Young World Staff, our Global Community and our supporters to strive towards embodying these principles in their leadership.



We humbly acknowledge that, while we might at times all fall short of these principles, we are fully committed to rising to the highest standards set by our Leadership Charter, and to always encourage those who we work with to do the same.





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