

This is the formal draft of the **Universal Declaration of Veganism**. It is written in a legalistic, authoritative tone, structured to mirror the gravity of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights while addressing the specific ethical and ecological realities of 2026.

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF VEGANISM

PREAMBLE

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all sentient beings is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world;

Whereas the exploitation of sentient life has historically led to profound suffering and the degradation of the human conscience;

Whereas the advancement of scientific understanding has confirmed that non-human animals possess complex nervous systems, emotions, and the capacity for physical and psychological suffering;

Whereas the industrial exploitation of animals is a primary driver of the global climate emergency, biodiversity loss, and the destabilization of the Earth's life-support systems;

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly and symbiotic relations between humans and all other species to ensure the survival of the biosphere;

Now, Therefore, THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF VEGANISM is hereby proclaimed as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations.

ARTICLE 1: THE PRINCIPLE OF SENTIENCE

All sentient beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with the capacity for feeling and should act towards one another in a spirit of non-violence.

ARTICLE 2: UNIVERSAL ENTITLEMENT

Every sentient being is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as species, habitat, or perceived utility to humanity.

ARTICLE 3: THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND AUTONOMY

Every sentient being has the right to life, liberty, and the security of person. No sentient being shall be held in slavery or servitude; the breeding, confinement, and commodification of sentient beings for the purpose of exploitation is prohibited.

ARTICLE 4: FREEDOM FROM CRUELTY

No sentient being shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. This includes, but is not limited to, use in laboratory experimentation, entertainment, or industrial slaughter.

ARTICLE 5: THE RIGHT TO BODILY INTEGRITY

The physical and psychological integrity of all sentient beings shall be inviolable. No being shall be subjected to mutilation or forced reproductive cycles for human consumption or gain.

ARTICLE 6: ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Recognizing that the health of the planet is a prerequisite for all life, it is the duty of all states to transition from animal-intensive agriculture to regenerative, plant-based systems to restore the Earth's ecosystems and mitigate climate collapse.

ARTICLE 7: HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY AND EDUCATION

Every individual and every organ of society shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms. Education systems shall emphasize empathy, biological kinship, and the ethical necessity of a plant-based lifestyle.

ARTICLE 8: THE RIGHT TO ETHICAL NUTRITION

All humans have the right to access affordable, nutritionally adequate, and culturally appropriate plant-based food. Governments shall ensure that public institutions—including schools, hospitals, and prisons—provide vegan options as a matter of fundamental right.

ARTICLE 9: CORPORATE AND STATE ACCOUNTABILITY

No state or corporation shall subsidize or incentivize the destruction of sentient life or the environments they inhabit. Economic structures must be reformed to prioritize life-affirming industries over those based on exploitation.

ARTICLE 10: LEGAL RECOGNITION

Sentient beings shall be recognized as legal persons before the law, entitled to representation and protection against the violation of the rights contained herein.

THE PROCLAMATION

This Declaration is a living document. It calls upon the citizens of Earth to acknowledge that our survival is inextricably linked to the mercy we show others. By ratifying these articles in our laws and our hearts, we move toward a future of true universal justice.