

## Ethics in Science and Technology - 1987

---

The earth and all that is therein are but lent to humanity by its Creator.

### Issue

Advancements in science and technology have raised new ethical questions which demand careful study, moral judgments and abiding concern with religious values. Science and technology too zealously pursued without any restraints from legal, religious and ethical values can lead to great harm not only to humanity but also to other forms of life on earth.

### Background

- 1) Intense experimentation moves forward in laboratories throughout the world. Many discoveries open doors to gains in the struggle to better understand disease processes whether they are from genetic or other causative factors. New hope is offered to humanity in recognizing, alleviating or solving many hereditary or acquired ills.
- 2) Increasing dangers to the environment, the ecosystem and the safe quality of everyday living are also a heightened concern.
- 3) In keeping with the biblical injunction against causing pain to living things, animals must not be subjected to cruel suffering in needless or questionable experimentation nor in preparation for human consumption.

### Resolution

With appreciation of the great advances made by science and technology for the betterment of humanity, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods in convention assembled underscores these essential points:

1. To understand the moral, ethical and religious implications of genetic engineering and other scientific achievements in the health fields, Sisterhood and their members should educate themselves about:
  1. Advances in the laboratory for treatment of hereditary, genetic or other diseases through chromosome or gene isolation and change so as to recognize the gains and dangers of such developments;
  2. Creation of new forms of life that may change the chain of evolution and even the human being and the ramifications of the implantation of organs especially when done across species;
  3. The prolongation of life through mechanical means, uniform medical and legislative definition of death and organ donation after death.
2. To protect the environment, Sisterhood and their members should:
  1. Support the safe disposal of waste, whether or not toxic, through efforts to reduce waste, programs to increase recycling and the development and use of biodegradable forms of plastic and other container materials; study legal safeguards adopted by national, state and local governments and work for full compliance with regulations and adoption of new ones if necessary;
  2. Study and take action against pollution of air and water from whatever sources, especially from acid rain, chemicals or extrusions from smokestacks and automobiles; be alert to the problems of ozone depletion and support efforts to minimize it; and work with environmentalists and government officials to protect our wilderness regions against needless encroachment or exploitation.
3. While we respect the need for scientific research for the preservation of life and health, in order to protect animals from inhumane treatment, Sisterhoods and their members should work for protective

legislation which would include:

1. Elimination of unnecessary scientific experimentation;
2. Humane provisions for breeding, raising or slaughtering of animals for human Consumption;
3. Outlawing the use of the steel leg-hold trap and other inhumane practices of animal trapping;
4. Safeguarding of wild life refuges for future generations of the inhabitants of the wilderness.