

Hippocratic Oath for Scientists, Engineers and Technologists

The Institute for Social Inventions is working to develop a Hippocratic-style Oath for scientists, engineers and technologists, similar to that for doctors, to which young scientists could pledge themselves at the start of their careers. The aim would be to influence the moral climate within which scientific work is carried out, to stimulate ethical debate in school and university science departments and to discourage young scientists and engineers from taking up work on further new weapons systems.

Copies of the Oath are available from The Institute for Social Inventions, 24 Abercorn Place, London NW8 9XP, price 50p on card. The Institute would also welcome Members' comments and suggestions.

'I solemnly pledge myself to consecrate my life to the service of humanity;

I will give to my teachers the respect and gratitude which is their due;

I will practise my profession with conscience and dignity; The well-being of humanity will be my first consideration;

I will maintain by all the means in my power, the honour and the noble traditions of my profession;

I will look on my colleagues as on my own family;

I will not permit considerations of religion, nationality, race, politics or social standing to intervene between my work and my duty to humanity;

I will maintain the utmost respect for human life from its beginning even under threat;

I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous;

I will not use my knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity;

I make these promises solemnly, freely and upon my honour'.