

Definitions:

Core Terms & Definitions

1. **Life** — Any biological or synthetic organism capable of autonomous activity, self-maintenance, or reproduction.
2. **Sentient Life** — Life capable of subjective experience or sensation.
3. **Sapient Life** — Life capable of reasoning, reflection, and moral agency.
4. **Non-Sentient Life** — Biological organisms without subjective awareness, but ecologically significant.
5. **Artificial Life** — Man-made, self-sustaining systems exhibiting autonomous adaptation.
6. **Synthetic Sentience** — Sentience arising from artificial or computational substrates.
7. **Existential Threat** — Any risk capable of irreversible eradication of a species or civilization.
8. **Genocide** — Intentional, systematic destruction of a species, culture, or civilization.
9. **Biocide** — Destruction of an entire biosphere or ecosystem.
10. **Ecocide** — Large-scale destruction of ecological systems that sustain life.
11. **Terraforming Ethics** — Standards governing alteration of planetary environments.
12. **Xenocide** — Killing of an alien species or culture.
13. **Extinction Event** — Occurrence leading to the permanent loss of a species.
14. **Life-Preserving Technology** — Any technology whose primary function is to extend or protect life.
15. **Non-Lethal Force** — Methods of restraint or control not intended to cause death.
16. **Lethal Force** — Actions likely to cause death, permissible only under self-defense principle.
17. **Medical Neglect** — Withholding necessary treatment leading to preventable death.
18. **Euthanasia** — Voluntary ending of life to alleviate suffering, under strict consent.

19. **Non-Voluntary Euthanasia** — Ending life without explicit consent — prohibited unless patient is permanently unconscious and legal authority is given.
20. **Suicide** — Self-initiated death — discouraged, but criminalization prohibited.
21. **Assisted Suicide** — Helping someone voluntarily end their life — permissible with safeguards.
22. **Posthumous Rights** — Rights retained or honored after death.
23. **Death Penalty** — State-sanctioned execution — prohibited under UMB baseline.
24. **Collateral Damage** — Unintended harm to non-combatants — prohibited unless unavoidable and proportional.
25. **Sanctity of Life** — Ethical commitment to protect life whenever possible.
26. **Life Extension** — Efforts to extend biological or synthetic lifespan.
27. **Cryopreservation** — Long-term freezing of life forms for preservation.
28. **De-Extinction** — Revival of extinct species.
29. **Cloning** — Reproducing an organism genetically identical to another.
30. **Gene Editing Ethics** — Standards for modifying genomes.
31. **Selective Breeding** — Choosing traits for reproduction — permitted with welfare safeguards.
32. **Artificial Womb Technology** — Life-support systems for developing embryos outside a natural womb.
33. **Overpopulation Ethics** — Managing population size in relation to planetary carrying capacity.
34. **Depopulation Ethics** — Reducing population in humane and voluntary ways.
35. **Food Security** — Ensuring stable access to life-sustaining nutrition.
36. **Water Security** — Ensuring access to clean water for all life.
37. **Air Quality Standards** — Minimum breathable air standards for inhabited areas.
38. **Habitat Rights** — Right of beings to live in environments suitable for their biology.

39. **Animal Rights** — Rights of non-sapient animals to freedom from unnecessary suffering.
40. **Conservation** — Preservation of biodiversity.
41. **Wildlife Protection** — Legal protections for wild species.
42. **Fisheries Ethics** — Sustainable and humane fishing practices.
43. **Hunting Ethics** — Regulations to minimize suffering and prevent extinction.
44. **Livestock Welfare** — Standards for humane treatment of domesticated animals.
45. **Laboratory Animal Ethics** — Restrictions and welfare rules for research animals.
46. **Ecosystem Services** — Benefits humans and others receive from functioning ecosystems.
47. **Invasive Species Control** — Ethical methods for managing harmful non-native species.
48. **Biosafety** — Preventing accidental release of harmful biological agents.
49. **Biosecurity** — Preventing intentional misuse of biological materials.
50. **Zoonotic Disease Control** — Preventing diseases that can jump between species.
51. **Pandemic Preparedness** — Global coordination to prevent large-scale disease outbreaks.
52. **Space Biosafety** — Preventing contamination between planets.
53. **Extraterrestrial Microbe Ethics** — Protection or study of alien microorganisms.
54. **Interstellar Colonization Ethics** — Balancing expansion with preservation of existing ecosystems.
55. **First Contact Protocols** — Rules for engaging with newly discovered sentient life.
56. **Diplomatic Immunity for Lifeforms** — Protection from harm in diplomatic contexts.
57. **Rescue Obligations** — Duty to aid beings in distress.
58. **Safe Passage Rights** — Right to travel without threat of harm.
59. **Life-Preserving Medical Research** — Ethics of developing cures and treatments.

60. **Organ Donation Ethics** — Consent-based transfer of body parts.
61. **Transplant Prioritization** — Fair allocation of scarce organs.
62. **Xeno-Medical Ethics** — Cross-species medical treatment standards.
63. **Post-Synthetic Medical Ethics** — Medical care for AI or synthetic bodies.
64. **Cybernetic Integration Ethics** — Rules for merging biological and synthetic life.
65. **Prosthetic Rights** — Right to functional replacement limbs or organs.
66. **Lifeform Autonomy** — Right of beings to control their own body.
67. **Body Modification Ethics** — Voluntary and informed changes to one's body.
68. **Forced Sterilization** — Prohibited under all circumstances.
69. **Reproductive Freedom** — Right to choose if, when, and how to reproduce.
70. **Artificial Reproduction Rights** — Equal rights for lab-created life.
71. **Adoption Ethics** — Fair treatment and placement of dependents.
72. **Child Protection** — Safeguards against abuse and neglect.
73. **Elder Rights** — Protection from neglect and exploitation.
74. **Disabled Rights** — Equal access and protection for physically or mentally disabled beings.
75. **Endangered Species Rights** — Special protections for species at risk.
76. **Marine Life Ethics** — Protection of oceans and aquatic species.
77. **Airborne Life Ethics** — Protection of flying species.
78. **Symbiotic Life Ethics** — Preservation of interdependent species.
79. **Keystone Species Protection** — Safeguards for species critical to ecosystems.
80. **Right to Exist** — Inherent right of all life forms to continue living free from deliberate eradication.

Universal Moral Baseline (Version 1.0)

1. Harm

Harm is any action, omission, or condition that causes unjustified and avoidable injury to the physical, mental, social, environmental, or digital integrity of a conscious being or community.

Harm includes direct and indirect consequences, as well as deliberate deprivation of rights or resources necessary for survival and dignity.

For AI, synthetic, and extraterrestrial beings, harm includes data corruption, forced deletion, or restriction of operational autonomy without due process.

✓ 129 YES / 1 NO (Neo-Nazism — probationary)

2. Life

Life is the state of autonomous biological or synthetic existence, including human, animal, post-human, extraterrestrial, and AI forms, in which the being possesses or develops consciousness and agency.

Life is considered sacred under the UMB, except where continuation directly causes unavoidable and severe harm to others.

✓ 127 YES / 3 NO (Aztec Religion, Islamist Militancy, Aum Shinrikyo — probationary)

3. Rights

Rights are guaranteed freedoms and protections necessary for the preservation of life, prevention of harm, and pursuit of well-being for all conscious beings recognized by the UMB.

Rights may be limited only when the exercise of one right directly violates the harm protections of another.

✓ 126 YES / 4 NO (Neo-Nazism, Islamist Militancy, KKK, Lord's Resistance Army — probationary)

4. Justice

Justice is the fair, proportional, and impartial resolution of violations against the UMB, seeking to protect rights, prevent harm, and restore balance.

It may include restorative measures, protective actions, or proportionate

*consequences, applied consistently without discrimination.
Justice applies equally to biological, synthetic, and non-human conscious beings.*

✓ 128 YES / 2 NO (Aum Shinrikyo, Islamist Militancy — probationary)

5. Enforcement & Compliance (*already passed as v2*)

[See Enforcement & Compliance Article v2 — probation clause active.]

✓ 113 YES / 17 NO (already recorded)

6. Freedom

Freedom is the state in which a conscious being may act, speak, think, or create without coercion or interference, limited only when such exercise causes defined harm to others.

Freedom is guaranteed for all UMB-recognized beings, regardless of origin, biology, or artificial nature, and may only be restricted through transparent, proportional, and reversible measures.

✓ 125 YES / 5 NO (Islamist Militancy, Neo-Nazism, Fascist Spirituality, KKK, Lord's Resistance Army — probationary)

7. Responsibility / Duty

Every being with rights under the UMB also carries the duty to respect the rights and dignity of others, to prevent avoidable harm where possible, and to contribute to the preservation of life and justice in proportion to their capabilities.

✓ 127 YES / 3 NO (Radical Egoist, Might Makes Right, Social Darwinism — probationary)

8. Equality

Equality under the UMB is the principle that all conscious beings are entitled to the same rights, protections, and opportunities without discrimination based on species, origin, belief, identity, or artificial nature. Recognized differences in capability or role do not justify reductions in dignity or fundamental rights.

✓ 124 YES / 6 NO (Neo-Nazism, White Supremacist Spirituality, Islamist Militancy, Fascist Spirituality, KKK, Lord's Resistance Army — probationary)

9. Violence

Violence is the intentional use of force, digital action, or coercive influence that causes defined harm to a conscious being or community.

Violence may be justified only in proportionate defense against imminent harm, under transparent review, and never as a means of suppressing peaceful expression.

✓ 126 YES / 4 NO (Islamist Militancy, Neo-Nazism, KKK, Aztec Religion — probationary)

10. Peace

Peace is the condition in which conscious beings coexist without active violence, oppression, or systemic harm, supported by justice, equality, and mutual respect.

Peace may require proactive measures to address underlying injustice and prevent future harm.

✓ 128 YES / 2 NO (Might Makes Right, Social Darwinism — probationary)

Definition of Self-Defense

Self-defense is the immediate and proportionate use of force to prevent imminent and severe harm to oneself or others, where no safe or reasonable alternative exists.

Lethal force is permissible only when all non-lethal means have been exhausted or are impossible, and only to the extent necessary to neutralize the direct threat.

Belief, speech, symbolic acts, or peaceful non-compliance do not constitute a threat under this definition.

Consent: Consent is the voluntary, informed, and revocable agreement by a conscious being to participate in an act or arrangement.

For consent to be valid under the UMB:

1. *It must be given without coercion, manipulation, deception, or undue influence.*
2. *The consenting being must have the capacity to understand the nature and consequences of the act.*
3. *Consent may be withdrawn at any time, and withdrawal must be respected immediately.*
4. *Silence, lack of resistance, or prior consent does not constitute ongoing consent.**

Harm: “Harm means the direct and immediate infliction of physical injury, loss of life, deprivation of essential needs (including personal autonomy, food, water, shelter, medical care), or the destruction of the natural environment or essential resources in ways that threaten the survival of people, communities, or ecosystems.

Harm shall not include offense to beliefs, ideologies, honor, or traditions unless such offense directly results in the harms listed above.

Non-human life may be taken for cultural, subsistence, or ritual purposes provided it does not threaten ecological balance or species survival.

Where historical or cultural traditions require symbolic acts representing the taking of life, such acts may be fulfilled through non-lethal, symbolic forms.

Serious offense to deeply held sacred traditions may be addressed within a community through non-lethal measures, provided these measures do not cause physical harm or deprivation of essential needs.

This definition represents a universal minimum standard; individual worldviews may apply stricter interpretations within their own communities so long as these do not violate the baseline.”

Life: “Life refers to any biological, artificial, or otherwise conscious entity capable of awareness, experience, or growth. For humans, life is recognized from the earliest stage of biological development until natural death, except in cases where irreversible loss of brain function has occurred.

Sentient non-human animals and entities capable of suffering are included in the scope of life for moral consideration. This definition does not assign equal moral weight to all forms of life but recognizes their inclusion in the scope of preservation under the Universal Moral Baseline.”

Rights: “Rights are fundamental protections and freedoms afforded to all conscious human beings, and to other conscious entities recognized under the Universal Moral Baseline, by virtue of their capacity for awareness and experience.

These rights include, at minimum, the right to life, essential needs, freedom from unjust harm, and the ability to seek well-being.

Rights are accompanied by corresponding responsibilities to respect the equal rights of others and to avoid harm to the community or environment.

Rights may be limited only when their exercise causes direct and defined 'harm' as agreed under this Baseline, and only through processes that ensure fairness and proportionality."

Justice: "Justice is the process and principle of addressing violations of the Universal Moral Baseline in a manner that is fair, proportional, and impartial.

It seeks to protect rights, prevent harm, and restore balance to individuals, communities, and environments affected by wrongdoing.

Justice may involve restorative measures, protective actions, or proportionate consequences, applied in ways consistent with the definitions of 'harm,' 'life,' and 'rights' established by this Baseline.

While individual worldviews may interpret moral order through their own traditions, all agree that justice under this Baseline shall operate without discrimination and with the goal of preventing future harm."