

# **Progress Society**

A twenty-first century proposal for ethics and collective goals.

*Aaron Wilkens*

**“To change ourselves and thus the world”**

# **Introduction**

A first impression

*Aaron Wilkens*

*Through science and knowledge we enhance ourselves  
Through our advancement society moves forward  
Through our progress the collective evolves  
Into a better world, into the future.*

This code like summary of what I propose here in further detail shall serve as a first impression. It may or may not resemble a certain code from a galaxy far, far away. Anything stated here is open for debate, especially since the very system proposed is build on advancing and evolving – so this idea should too. On the following pages I describe a set of values, goals and ideals for a possible society of the future. This proposal will be structured as follows:

- I. Proposal / the origin**
- II. Goals of the Progress Society**
- III. Values and Ideals of the Progress Society**
- IV. Possible dangers and challenges concerning ethics**

# I. Proposal

So what exactly is this Progress Society? It is more than just an economic system like capitalism, although also overriding capitalistic values. The closest resemblance is actually a culture. It is designed to address challenges we face in our modern society and accelerate human (technological) progress. It might bear similarity to transhumanism and certainly incorporates aspects of this movement. Its fundamental thought is as follows:

*We acknowledge our nescience – there is an abundance of things unknown to us. Therefore our primary goal is the gathering of knowledge. Our ignorance lets us value life and sentience above all else. Society gathers knowledge in order to not cause damage through misinformed or uneducated actions. We push the boundaries of our capabilities, through this advancement elevating the condition of all individuals.*

This foundation is very altruistic, as every individual gives its best in order to advance society through improving itself.

In order to achieve these ends we shall change the values, ideals and collective goals of our society itself. This is my proposal.

## II. Goals

**Evolving.** The Progress society pursuits an advanced state of all individuals in order to take educated action and gather further knowledge. The end of this spiral of advancement may not be foreseen in our current state.

**Gathering knowledge.** In order to further advance and evolve the society pursuits knowledge. The prime purpose of this knowledge is to be applied.

**Progressing.** Advancement in, but not limited to, technology.

**Educating.** All members of the society have equal opportunity to educate themselves. Wasted potential is unacceptable.

**Changing.** The Progress Society aims to stay in a state of flexibility, evolving and adapting as needed.

**Nurturing free thought.** All individuals should be able to form educated thoughts. Thinking is not to be suppressed. The first tool to oppose ideas is the use of logical arguments.

**Providing universal access to information.** Information and knowledge must be accessible by everyone in order to act in an informed manner.

**Elevating the condition of its members.** The Progress Society strives to better the lives of all individuals.

**Securing long term efficiency.** Costly war, psychological deterioration of the workers, waste of resources or corruption: In order to advance faster efficiency is to be secured.

**Providing a living.** Money is not acquired in order to survive – the society aims for its members to be relatively self-sufficient. Satisfaction of basic needs and humane conditions are provided equally for all members.

### III. Values and Ideals

In order to achieve its goals the members of this society are raised to hold, and reflect on, certain Values and Ideals.

*Value life and other beings above all else.*

*Express this value – tabooing sexuality in media and showing killing and violence at an earlier age is illogical and does not comply with your morals.*

***Acknowledge and face reality, but do not forget - we can change it.***

*Pursue knowledge, then share it.*

*Foster a healthy ambition.*

*Value the progress of the collective above yourself.*

*Reflect on your morals, question this very system.*

*Stand united as a society to reach your goals.*

*Respect things you do not fully understand.*

*Nurture and satisfy your curiosity.*

***Act logically and educated.***

*The provided foundation for everyone shall be equal.*

*Embrace your inequality through competition, furthering advancement.*

***Social status is reached through advancing and benefiting the society, not through money or material goods.***

*The purpose of social status is to spark ambition, not to discriminate.*

*Discriminating hinders the victim thus potentially slowing societal advance. This is immoral.*

***Freedom benefits advancement, Unity focuses strength.***

*Leaders give their best to coordinate the whole picture, members give their utmost to perfect their unique part.*

*Educate yourself, strive to become better at what you do and learn what you can not yet do.*

***Ideas surpass people. Systems outlast individuals.***

*Therefore Democracy surpasses dictatorship.*

*Learn from mistakes, not only your own. If damage has been done to learn a lesson, value this sacrifice.*

***Respect yourself. You are of no long term value to society if you burn out or break.***

*This applies to you and others. Do not push people past their limit – push the limits themselves.*

*Detest stagnation and willing inefficiency for own benefit.*

*Collaborate with others and help them – utilize our strength as a social species.*

***Avoid unnecessary harm, be willing to endure pain for benefit.***

These values are designed to direct the society towards its goals. As the system itself they are bound to grow and evolve.

## IV. Ethical concerns and challenges

With all ideals come certain dangers – a balance must be preserved to stabilize a system. The Progress Society is no exception.

The Progress Society incorporates notions of transhumanism, mainly the idea of evolving as a species and the elevation of the human condition through technology. Therefore it faces similar risks. The values of this society should deal with these risks – supposed that the majority holds these values.

In the progress society social status is gained through benefiting society, amassing material goods and wealth is observed critically. A challenge still remains: A lack of competition leads to stagnation, too much competition breaks morals and people, the energy expended on fighting the competition leads to stagnation – balance is vital.

The last concern is happiness: The Progress Society indefinitely pursues advancement. If the members of this society are unable to live with the current conditions they will be indefinitely unhappy. On the other hand, if all members are always content, society will stagnate and happiness lose its value.

Stagnation halts adaptation. A species that does not adapt dies out. A stagnated organism faces death.

And therefore we pursue happiness and move on, into the future.