

Our History

In 1876, Dr. Felix Adler founded a new movement to work toward the advancement of social justice for all based upon ethical values. He encouraged members to express their consciences through moral and humane actions. These principles remain the core of Ethical Culture today.



Our members founded:

Ethical Culture Fieldston School
District Nursing Department (Forerunner of Visiting Nurse Service)
Child Study Association
US Settlement House Movement
Encampment for Citizenship
Blythedale Children's Hospital
First Free Kindergarten
National Ethical Service

Our members helped establish:

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
American Civil Liberties Union
International Humanist and Ethical Union
National Urban League
Visiting and Teaching Guild for Crippled Children
National Child Labor Commission
Legal Aid Society
Planned Parenthood Clinics
International Partners
New York Committee to Abolish Capital Punishment

Who We Are

Member Ethical Societies

Baltimore Ethical Society – www.bmoreethical.org
Boston Ethical Community – www.bostonethical.org
Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture – www.bsec.org
Chicago Ethical Humanist Circle – www.EthicalHumanist.net
Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County – www.ethicalfocus.org
Ethical Culture Society of Essex County – www.essexethical.org
Ethical Culture Society of Silicon Valley – www.ethicalsiliconvalley.org
Ethical Culture Society of Suffolk
Ethical Culture Society of Westchester – www.ethicalsocietywestchester.org
Ethical Humanist Society of Asheville – www.EHSAshville.org
Ethical Humanist Society of Chicago – www.ethicalhuman.org
Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island – www.ehsl.org
Philadelphia Ethical Society – www.phillyethics.org
Ethical Humanist Society of Queens – www.queenshumanist.com
Ethical Humanist Society of the Triangle – www.ncethicalsociety.org
Ethical Society Mid Rivers – www.ethicalsocietymr.org
Ethical Society of Austin – www.esoa.org
Ethical Society of Northern Westchester – www.esnw.org
Ethical Society of St. Louis – www.ethicalstl.org
New York Society for Ethical Culture – www.nysec.org
Northern Virginia Ethical Society – www.noves.org
Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture – www.rysec.org
Susquehanna Valley Ethical Society – www.susquehannavalleyethicalsociety.org
Washington Ethical Society – www.ethicalsociety.org

American Ethical Union
www.aeu.org

2 West 64th Street, New York, NY 10023
Phone 212-873-6500, Fax 212-624-0203
Facebook & Twitter: @EthicalUnion

AMERICAN
ETHICAL
UNION

Inspiring Ethical Communities



Growing Community

National Assemblies

Members gather annually to connect with each other, learn more about Ethical Culture, and explore a social justice theme.

Conferences & Workshops

Educators, teenagers, young adults, and Society committees are able to discuss their views and inspire new ideas for the Movement and the world.

National Leaders Council & Presidents Council

Our Society Leaders and Presidents meet and correspond regularly to develop and share resources that will assist our Societies.

Ethical Education

Our curriculum fosters the development of engaged global citizens and powerful ethical leaders of all ages.

Ethical Action

Acknowledging human responsibility for solving human problems, we organize our Movement to act towards solutions on various issues.



Voicing Our Values

The American Ethical Union creates, nurtures, and inspires ethical humanist communities to foster a world that is democratic, compassionate, just, and sustainable.



We represent Ethical Culture through:

Resolutions and Public Statements

Amicus Briefs

Online Presence

Marches and Rallies

Social Justice Coalitions

National and International Humanist Organizations

National Ethical Service (United Nations NGO)

United Religions Initiative

Creating an Ethical World

We recognize the unique worth and dignity of all people regardless of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, economic status, level of ability, or religious beliefs.

We advocate for reason, compassion, and rational thinking so we can progress as individuals, communities, and a world.

We act to elicit the best in others and thereby in ourselves, celebrating with and supporting each other through life.

Our faith is in human goodness and building ethical relationships with each other and the Earth.

We realize the full capacity of our human spirit when we stimulate our thinking with new insights and inspirations.

We train future humanist leaders to promote responsible and ethical living.

