

Nikki's Good Society: Foundational Social Tenets and Evolving Thoughts

The following (unfinished work in progress) I consider to be the foundational tenets of the society I want to live in. I have written "civilized society" and "democracy" as equivalent concepts.

1. Humans are not born equal. It is the duty of a civilized society to set up systems so as to buffer and remedy that situation.
2. "Church" and state are to be kept rigorously separate.
3. A democratic society is to provide citizens with equity of access to quality education and opportunities for employment, continued learning and meaningful leisure.
4. Every citizen is to have access to state funded health care, the level of which is to be determined by elections and laws, based on science and new technological advances. This includes a basic understanding of wellness: nutrition, exercise, hygiene and disease prevention.
5. Every citizen is to have access to state funded education, good enough to produce a citizenry literate in modern scientific concepts, arts, languages including music and history. Each educational level is to be identified by clear criteria of "understands and knows," and "knows how to do." This will enable students of all ages to advance freely throughout the system, based at every level on individual merit. Moreover, at the end of high school, all students will have a working knowledge of electricity, electronics, plumbing, carpentry and first aid. At the end of the first university level, all students will be drafted into a one year long community service programme.
6. While democracies must regulate equal access, they are not to regulate outcome. Those privileged by talent, hard work, ambition or inheritance are not to be penalized for their good fortune or achievements.
7. Immigrants aspiring to become citizens of a functioning democracy are to understand its basic values and tenets. They are to pledge their allegiance to such principles before being welcomed as citizens.
8. Citizenship, at birth or legally acquired endows every citizen to a minimal annual guaranteed income, adequate not to be homeless or starve, but not

sufficient to foster idleness. The "Industry of the Poor" is to be correspondingly dismantled.

9. While immigration is the lifeblood of nations and enriches the fabric of humanity, illegal immigration is intolerable. Any interest, commercial, political or religious, sponsoring such is to be severely taken to task by law.
10. Capital punishment is to be enforced quickly after due process, to include adequate representation and all scientific means at hand. It is to be the fate of the most grievous offenders, such as those who prey on children, and serial killers.
11. The state's function is to ensure a regulated environment in which the talents and aspirations of the citizenship may thrive. The state's ethos is that of a guardian, not to be confused with that of a business entity. The aim of business is to make money, not to nurture a social conscience. It is the responsibility of government to protect the Commons through regulations. Dire penalties must be enforced upon offenders. It is also the responsibility of government to grow and safeguard an environment where business may flourish.
12. No corporation or similar entity should be afforded the status of a human being. A democratic state should endeavour to develop and nurture a large middle class. Unacceptable disparities in access and income should be regulated by progressive taxation.
13. To support the physical, economic and social infrastructure basic to a democracy, the state needs money. The source of funds is the tax base. The tax base of modern economies is shrinking because the value of human labour is being eroded by circumstances and technology. Employment levels climb and jobless economic recoveries occur. The tax base must undergo a drastic transformation to reflect this change. Progressive taxation should apply neither to capital nor labour but to technology. Studies have been conducted showing the feasibility of levying a minuscule tax on all electronic transactions, particularly financial transactions. This would enable society to finally move towards economies not of scarcity but of plenty, with value added not to human but to technological labour. Society would at last

become truly knowledge-based. What is lacking is scope and political will.
What is the word politicians fear the most? "Courage..."

14. While every citizen should be encouraged to run for public office, expenses incurred should be capped and regulated in the most stringent manner.
Wealth and skill at fund-raising should not be a condition of public service.
15. A revised Charter will outline not only every citizen's Rights but also every citizen's Responsibilities regarding the State and the Citizenry.

I walk and think and write a thing or two. I dream of the Good Society in all its facets and possibles. Then I go look after dinner.

Life may tend to Consciousness. Consciousness may be a property of the universe.
Faith is a conscious decision.