

# A PRO-VISIONAL EARTH CHARTER

*from a group at Iona, July 1993*

We shall honour this planet Earth  
as the home of all living things  
because God loves it  
and because we are a part of it.

We shall nurture it with wisdom.

Starting from where we are,  
as a matter of urgency we look to change our life-styles  
and commit ourselves to reducing our consumption.

We shall plan for the long term.

We shall work cooperatively rather than competitively.

We shall value one another more.

We shall keep ourselves and others well-informed.

We shall try to learn how to value things held in common,  
and not take for granted those gifts which cost us nothing.

We shall seek ways of passing on these values to children.

We challenge the values  
of selfish competition and individualism;  
of short-term planning;  
of militarism;  
of freedom of choice as a consumer ideal:  
all of which have been promoted strongly in our culture.

We value and commit ourselves to  
cooperation, community and interdependence.

We shall make appropriate protests  
to organisations and to those in authority  
where these values are threatened.

Aware of the uncaused love of God, we give thanks.  
We pray to the Spirit for wisdom and courage.

This text emerged from discussions held at Iona Abbey in July 1993. We were a mixed group of forty five christians gathered for a course entitled *Loving Oneself, Loving the World* led by Anne Primavesi. It summarises the ideals that emerged and the resolutions and commitments that we felt impelled to make in response to the Earth Charter drawn up by the Non-Governmental Organisations in Rio at the Earth Summit in June 1992.

We called our Earth Charter 'pro-visional' because it is a vision and a programme. When we first came together, we had no idea that we were going to produce this. But that part of the world works a special magic. Iona itself is rooted in ancient celtic christianity, and we experienced at the Abbey its present-day wisdom, its liturgy and its vibrant community life. Notable high moments were a special service for healing, a seven mile pilgrimage round the island, and a service of rededication. A trip to Staffa took us to see Fingal's cave and to sit among the puffins along the cliff edges where they make their underground nests and feed their young with fish brought in their beaks.

This Pro-visional Earth Charter is, we feel, a gift we received at Iona and which we wish to share. Many there said they would print it in their parish magazines, give it to their children, hang it on the walls of their kitchens, and discuss it at work. It is our gift to you.