



THE HUMAN-SOVEREIGNTY TRANSHUMANIST MANIFESTO

A public declaration for technological progress under human sovereignty

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Humanity may transcend its limits -
but it must never surrender its sovereignty.

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EDITION NOTE

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1. Preamble

Humanity has always used technology to exceed the limits imposed upon it.

Fire extended our survival. Writing extended memory. Medicine extended life. Machines extended strength. Telecommunications extended presence. Computers extended calculation. Each advance altered not only what human beings could do, but what societies expected human beings to become.

We now stand before a transformation of a different magnitude.

Artificial intelligence can increasingly interpret, predict and influence human decisions. Brain-computer interfaces may connect thought directly to machines. Genetic engineering may alter inherited biology. Neurotechnology may modify memory, emotion and cognition. Artificial organs and prosthetics may replace or surpass biological functions. Robotics may extend physical agency beyond the human body. Longevity science may radically lengthen life. Digital systems may preserve fragments of identity after biological death.

These technologies offer extraordinary possibilities. They may restore movement, eliminate inherited diseases, expand intelligence, relieve suffering and grant individuals abilities once considered impossible.

But every technology that increases human capability can also increase institutional power over human beings.

A brain-computer interface can restore communication - or become an instrument of cognitive surveillance. Genetic medicine can prevent disease - or establish hereditary classes. Artificial intelligence can expand knowledge - or manipulate behaviour at unprecedented scale. A prosthetic can liberate its user - or become dependent upon a corporation that controls its software. Life-extension technology can enlarge the human future - or concentrate additional decades of life among those with wealth and political power.

The defining question of technological progress is therefore no longer simply:

What can humanity become? It is also:

Who decides what humanity becomes-and who controls the technologies through which that transformation occurs? Human-Sovereignty Transhumanism affirms the freedom of every person to use science and technology to overcome biological limitations, expand human capability and pursue new forms of existence. At the same time, it rejects any future in which governments, corporations, artificial intelligences or social majorities acquire ownership over the human body, mind, identity or evolutionary direction.

We support enhancement without technological servitude.

We support progress without surrender.

We support transformation without the loss of personhood.

We believe that humanity may transcend many of its biological limitations while preserving the freedom, dignity and moral agency that make such transcendence worth pursuing.

This manifesto is a public declaration that the future of the human species must remain answerable to human beings-individually and collectively - and that technological power must always remain subordinate to human sovereignty.

2. The Technological Condition

Human beings are entering an age in which technology will no longer remain external to the body.

The boundary separating person and machine is becoming increasingly permeable. Pacemakers regulate the heart. Cochlear implants convert sound into electrical signals. Deep-brain stimulation alters neural activity. Prosthetic limbs respond to muscular or neural intention. Algorithms influence what people see, believe and desire. Genetic techniques allow increasingly precise intervention in living organisms.

Future systems may operate even more intimately.

They may read neural signals, predict emotional states, stimulate particular feelings, regulate attention, augment memory or connect cognition to artificial intelligence. Devices implanted or worn by individuals may continuously transmit biological and behavioural data. Genetic interventions may produce changes that extend beyond one person into future generations.

Technology will therefore cease to be merely something we use. It will increasingly become part of how we think, perceive, reproduce, remember, communicate and act.

This creates a profound change in the nature of political and economic power.

Historically, authorities governed people principally through laws, institutions, property, borders and physical force. In the emerging technological age, power may operate through software, neural interfaces, biological modification, identity systems and control over the infrastructure required for enhanced life.

A person could theoretically possess an enhanced body while lacking authority over it.

An implant might be physically located inside the user yet remain legally owned by its manufacturer. A neural device might improve cognition while sending intimate information to an external server. A prosthetic might cease functioning when a subscription expires. An artificial organ might depend upon proprietary software that its recipient cannot inspect. A genetic intervention might be imposed upon a child according to state policy or commercial preference.

Under such conditions, enhancement would not necessarily produce freedom. It could create a more intimate form of dependency.

The enhanced person could become more capable while simultaneously becoming more governable.

Human-Sovereignty Transhumanism therefore distinguishes between human enhancement and human subordination through enhancement. A technology does not serve human progress merely because it increases performance. It must also preserve the agency, rights, security and self-determination of the person using it.

Efficiency is not sovereignty.

Intelligence is not sovereignty.

Connectivity is not sovereignty.

Long life is not sovereignty if another entity controls the conditions under which that life may continue.

The purpose of technological progress must be to expand the range of lives that human beings may freely choose-not to narrow humanity into forms selected by institutions, markets or machines.

3. The Meaning of Human Sovereignty

Human sovereignty is the principle that every person possesses primary moral authority over their own body, mind, identity and legitimate course of development.

It begins with self-ownership but extends beyond physical possession. It includes authority over consciousness, attention, memory, emotion, personal data, biological information and technological modification.

A sovereign person must be able to decide:

- Whether to enhance or remain unenhanced
- Which technologies may enter or alter the body
- What neural and biological data may be collected
- Who may access that information
- Whether an intervention may be stopped or reversed
- Whether personal enhancements may connect to external systems
- Whether technological changes may be inherited by future descendants
- How one's identity is represented across physical and digital environments

Human sovereignty does not mean that every desire automatically becomes a right, or that every technological experiment should be permitted without restriction. Individual decisions may affect children, communities, ecosystems and future generations. Technologies capable of producing widespread harm require legitimate safeguards.

Sovereignty must therefore exist alongside responsibility.

However, regulation intended to prevent harm must not become a pretext for institutional ownership of the human person. Governments may establish safety standards, prohibit deception and protect vulnerable people. They must not claim unlimited authority to determine the permitted form of every human body or mind.

Corporations may invent, manufacture and maintain technologies. They must not convert access to essential bodily functions into indefinite obedience.

Artificial intelligence may advise, calculate and assist. It must not become the final authority over human identity, rights or existence.

Human sovereignty also has a collective dimension. Humanity must retain meaningful control over technological systems capable of reshaping civilization or determining the evolutionary direction of the species. No corporation, state, military or artificial intelligence should unilaterally decide humanity's technological future.

But collective authority has limits. Humanity cannot be protected by abolishing the freedom of actual human beings.

The challenge is to establish institutions that protect individuals from coercion while protecting society from reckless uses of transformative power.

Human-Sovereignty Transhumanism seeks this balance: maximal responsible freedom for the person, enforceable accountability for powerful institutions, and special protection wherever technological decisions may become irreversible.

4. The Twelve Axioms

The following axioms form the permanent foundation of Human-Sovereignty Transhumanism.

Axiom I: Human Sovereignty Every person possesses primary moral authority over their own body, mind, consciousness, identity and technological development.

No institution may legitimately claim ownership of a person because it created, financed, enhanced, repaired or technologically maintains any part of that person.

Axiom II: Freedom of Enhancement Every competent person has the right to pursue safe and informed technological enhancement.

This freedom includes therapeutic, physical, cognitive, sensory, reproductive and longevity-related technologies, subject to proportionate protections against serious harm to others.

Axiom III: Freedom of Refusal The right to enhance is inseparable from the right to remain unenhanced.

No person should be denied employment, education, healthcare, insurance, political participation or basic social standing merely because they refuse a nonessential enhancement.

Axiom IV: Informed and Continuing Consent No technological intervention into the body or mind is legitimate without free, specific and informed consent.

Consent must continue after installation or adoption. Where reasonably possible, the individual must retain the ability to pause, disconnect, remove or reverse the technology without retaliation.

Axiom V: Cognitive Liberty The human mind is an inviolable domain of personal freedom.

Every person has the right to think, remember, imagine, believe, doubt and experience consciousness without unauthorized monitoring or manipulation. Technologies that affect cognition must remain subordinate to the user's deliberate agency.

Axiom VI: Mental and Biological Privacy Neural signals, genetic information, biometric patterns, emotional states and bodily data belong first to the person from whom they originate.

Their collection or use must require a legitimate purpose, meaningful consent, strict security and enforceable limits. Intimate human data must not become an unrestricted commercial resource.

Axiom VII: Meaningful Human Control Systems capable of materially affecting human rights, bodily integrity or survival must remain under meaningful human control.

Human oversight must be informed, timely and capable of changing or stopping an outcome. A ceremonial human presence does not satisfy this requirement.

Axiom VIII: Transparency and Comprehensibility People have the right to understand the technologies operating within, upon or through them.

Manufacturers and operators must disclose essential capabilities, risks, dependencies, data practices and decision-making functions in language users can reasonably understand.

Axiom IX: Continuity of Identity Technological modification must not extinguish a person's legal and moral identity without that person's informed decision.

An enhanced, augmented or partially synthetic person remains entitled to human rights. Replacement of biological functions does not reduce personhood.

Axiom X: Equal Moral Status Enhanced and unenhanced persons possess equal fundamental moral worth.

Technological capability must not become the basis for caste, hereditary domination, political supremacy or exclusion from ordinary human rights.

Axiom XI: Responsibility to Future Generations Interventions that may affect descendants or humanity's shared inheritance require exceptional caution.

Future persons cannot consent to present decisions. Germline engineering, self-propagating biological systems and irreversible evolutionary interventions therefore demand transparent review, long-term monitoring and intergenerational responsibility.

Axiom XII: Accountability for Technological Power Those who design, finance, deploy and govern transformative technologies must remain accountable for foreseeable harms.

Responsibility cannot be transferred to an algorithm, buried within a contract or divided among institutions until no one can be held answerable.

Together, these axioms establish a simple order of authority:

Technology serves the person. Institutions govern technology. Human rights govern institutions.

5. Rights of Enhanced and Unenhanced Persons

Human rights must not depend upon whether a person remains biologically conventional.

An individual with artificial limbs, neural implants, engineered organs, altered genetics or machine-assisted cognition must not be treated as property, a licensed product or a lesser category of being. Enhancement does not cancel citizenship, dignity, legal standing or moral responsibility.

Likewise, an unenhanced person must not be treated as obsolete.

As enhancement becomes more effective, social pressure may become more coercive than formal law. Employers may prefer cognitively augmented workers. Schools may expect neurotechnological learning systems. Insurers may penalize people who refuse continuous biological monitoring. Militaries may require physical or neural modifications. Governments may present mandatory enhancement as necessary for productivity, public safety or national competitiveness.

The appearance of choice can conceal practical compulsion.

Human-Sovereignty Transhumanism therefore declares the following rights:

1 The right to bodily and cognitive self-determination. 2 The right to pursue lawful and responsible enhancement. 3 The right to refuse nonessential enhancement. 4 The right to meaningful informed consent. 5 The right to withdraw consent wherever technically and medically feasible. 6 The right to mental, neural, genetic and biometric privacy. 7 The right to access personal data generated by one's own body or mind. 8 The right to repair, maintain and securely transfer essential personal technologies. 9 The right to know when artificial intelligence is materially influencing a decision affecting one's life. 10 The right to remain legally recognized as a person across biological and technological transformation. 11 The right to equal protection regardless of enhancement status. 12 The right to effective remedies when transformative technologies cause harm.

These protections must apply not only to wealthy early adopters but also to workers, patients, children, persons with disabilities, prisoners, soldiers, migrants and others whose ability to refuse institutional demands may be limited.

Freedom cannot be measured by what the powerful are permitted to purchase. It must be measured by what the vulnerable are protected from being forced to accept.

6. Duties of Governments and Corporations

Governments have a duty to protect citizens from coercion, fraud, unsafe experimentation, discriminatory technological systems and the concentration of transformative power.

They must establish strong protections for mental privacy, genetic information and bodily autonomy. They must ensure that authorization processes are independent, evidence-based and open to public scrutiny. They must provide legal remedies when institutions violate cognitive or biological rights.

Governments must also restrain themselves.

They must not require ideological conformity through neurotechnology. They must not conduct indiscriminate neural or biometric surveillance. They must not secretly manipulate cognition, emotion or memory. They must not impose enhancements merely to increase economic output, military capability or administrative control.

National security cannot become an unlimited exemption from human sovereignty.

Corporations have corresponding duties.

A company that creates technology operating within the human body or mind assumes obligations greater than those of an ordinary consumer-products manufacturer. Its decisions may affect perception, movement, memory, identity or survival.

Such corporations must:

- Design for safety, autonomy and privacy from the beginning
- Collect only the data genuinely required
- Clearly disclose material risks and dependencies
- Provide meaningful security updates
- Maintain essential functions during commercial disputes
- Establish procedures for repair, transfer and safe removal
- Avoid manipulative consent practices
- Permit independent safety and security testing
- Accept liability for negligent or deceptive conduct
- Provide continuity plans for bankruptcy or product discontinuation

No person should lose control of an implanted medical or enhancement device because a company closes, changes ownership or withdraws access to a server.

No corporation should remotely disable an essential bodily function to enforce a payment dispute.

No user agreement should grant a company ownership over a person's thoughts, genetic identity or involuntary biological signals.

The closer technology approaches the core of personhood, the stronger its obligations must become.

7. Responsibilities of Technologists

Technologists are not merely builders of neutral tools.

Engineers, scientists, designers, physicians, researchers and entrepreneurs make choices about what systems can do, whose interests they prioritize and which forms of control become possible.

Technical achievement does not eliminate moral responsibility.

Those developing transformative technologies must ask:

- Can the user understand what this system does?
- Can the user refuse it without unreasonable punishment?
- Can the technology be disconnected or removed?
- Who receives the data it produces?
- Can the system alter behaviour without conscious authorization?
- Can an employer, government or attacker misuse its functions?
- What happens if the manufacturer disappears?
- Who is harmed when the system fails?
- Does the technology expand the user's agency - or merely the institution's power over the user?

Privacy, autonomy and human control cannot be added as superficial features after a system has already been designed around surveillance and dependency. They must shape its architecture from the beginning.

Technologists also have a responsibility to resist deceptive language.

A system should not be called "human-controlled" when a person has only seconds to approve an opaque algorithmic recommendation. Consent should not be called "informed" when refusal makes employment or medical care impossible. Data should not be called "anonymous" when biological or neural patterns can identify their source. A device should not be called "owned" when the user cannot repair, transfer or operate it independently.

Researchers must communicate uncertainty honestly. Enhancement claims should be supported by evidence. Risks must not be concealed behind optimism, commercial secrecy or ideological enthusiasm.

Those who possess the expertise to understand transformative systems bear a corresponding duty to warn the public when those systems threaten human sovereignty.

8. Declaration of Opposition to Coercive Enhancement

We oppose coercive enhancement in every form.

We oppose governments compelling citizens to modify their bodies or minds for political obedience, economic productivity, military advantage or social conformity.

We oppose employers making invasive enhancement a practical condition of ordinary work where less intrusive alternatives exist.

We oppose insurers coercing individuals into continuous biological or neural surveillance.

We oppose educational systems requiring nontherapeutic cognitive modification as the price of participation.

We oppose corporations designing essential augmentations that remain permanently dependent upon proprietary permission.

We oppose military programs that treat soldiers as experimental platforms whose consent is compromised by command authority.

We oppose hereditary enhancement regimes that divide humanity into engineered classes.

We oppose the secret use of technology to manipulate emotion, attention, memory, belief or behaviour.

We oppose artificial intelligences being granted unilateral authority to determine a person's rights, identity, bodily access or continued existence.

We oppose forced enhancement, but we also oppose indiscriminate prohibition.

The state must not compel enhancement, nor should it prohibit competent adults from responsibly transforming themselves merely because their choices depart from biological convention.

Human-Sovereignty Transhumanism rejects both compulsory technological conformity and compulsory biological conformity.

The sovereign person must have room to change - and room to remain unchanged.

9. Public Pledge

We affirm that technological progress should enlarge human freedom rather than replace it.

We affirm the right of every person to exercise authority over their own body, mind, identity and legitimate development.

We affirm the freedom to pursue enhancement and the equal freedom to refuse it.

We affirm that enhanced and unenhanced persons possess equal moral worth and must remain equal before the law.

We affirm cognitive liberty, mental privacy, bodily autonomy and meaningful consent as fundamental requirements of the technological age.

We affirm that human data originates in human beings and must not be treated as an ownerless commercial resource.

We affirm that technologies operating within the body or mind must remain understandable, secure, repairable and accountable to their users.

We affirm that artificial intelligence must assist human judgment without becoming the unchallengeable authority over human life.

We affirm that governments and corporations must never acquire ownership over the persons whose bodies, minds or lives depend upon their technologies.

We affirm responsibility toward children, vulnerable persons, future generations and all those who cannot freely consent to technological intervention.

We affirm that every increase in technological power must be matched by an increase in transparency, accountability and protection of human agency.

We therefore pledge:

- To pursue human advancement without human subjugation.
- To welcome enhancement without accepting coercion.
- To develop intelligence without surrendering judgment.
- To build powerful machines without granting them sovereignty over humanity.
- To transcend biological limitations without abandoning human dignity, plurality and freedom.

Technology may alter the human condition, but it must not become humanity's master.

The future must not be a contest between biological humans and technological beings. It must be a civilization in which persons - whatever their embodiment - remain sovereign, responsible and free.

We call upon individuals, researchers, institutions, governments and corporations to adopt these principles; to test new technologies against them; and to refuse systems that obtain progress by converting human beings into objects, products or property.

Humanity may transform itself.

Humanity must not surrender itself.

10. Signature and Version History

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Declaration

This manifesto establishes the public ethical and political declaration of Human-Sovereignty Transhumanism. It builds upon the original formulation of the philosophy published in 2014 and its subsequent development into a formal framework for enhancement, cognitive liberty and technological governance.

The manifesto may be endorsed by individuals and institutions committed to technological progress under conditions of human sovereignty.

Endorsement signifies agreement with its foundational principles. It does not require agreement with every prediction, policy proposal or future interpretation associated with the movement.

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Future editions must preserve an accessible record of substantive revisions. Earlier versions should remain publicly available so that the development of the philosophy can be independently examined. Minor typographical corrections may be recorded without creating a new philosophical edition. Changes affecting axioms, rights, duties, or foundational definitions should receive a new version number and an explanatory revision note.

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