

Humanism and human responsibility

Humanism is a way of thinking and living that emphasises the **agency** of human beings. Humanism stresses the fact that we, human beings, are capable of changing the world. That we have the power to make a difference in our lives, both individually and collectively, without recourse to some outside force...

Our destinies are in our hands, not predetermined. And it's left for us to shape our lives and destinies to reflect our best hopes and aspirations. I believe that human beings have the power to turn situations of poverty into those of wealth and prosperity. We have the **capacity** to alleviate suffering, extend life, prevent diseases, cure debilitating ailments, reduce infant mortality and preserve our planet...

Human beings are **creative** beings. We have the power to generate new ideas, new solutions and new cures. It is in our nature to create anew, to be inventive and innovative...

I believe we must be **adventurous** and even daring. The path of success is paved with risk and uncertainties. We have to muster the will and **courage** to do what people have never done. To think what people have never thought. Envisage what people have never imagined. Go to places human beings have not been to. And succeed where people have tried but failed. We must be ready to explore new frontiers of knowledge and understanding and attempt doing not just what is possible but also what is seemingly impossible...

As a humanist, I believe that the past is gone; we cannot change it, we cannot alter it. But the future beckons us on with limitless **possibilities** to recreate, reshape and remake our destinies. So let's all of us seize this opportunity.



Leo Igwe, founder of the Nigerian Humanist Association and Board member of Humanists International
Taken from the Ted Talk 'Why I choose humanism over faith'