



THE DALAI LAMA

## MESSAGE

I am encouraged by the founding of the Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at MIT with the aim of developing a more a holistic education focused on the development of human and global ethics. I fully support its goal of promoting enquiry, dialogue, and programs that pay attention to the humane values and secular ethics that give our lives meaning.

We live in a time of profound change. Science and technology continue to expand our ability to understand and change life. Our impact on the natural environment has grown to the point that we are doing damage to the planet as a whole. We can no longer think of economies and societies as separate. In our global community they are increasingly interdependent and our actions affect not just ourselves but our neighbours throughout the world as well. Now, more than ever, it is important that we examine the impact of our actions on each other as individuals, peoples, countries and inhabitants of this planet.

Our lives become meaningless when we cease to value justice and ethics. We all have an equal right to pursue happiness; no one wants pain and suffering. And yet justice and equality are uniquely human principles. We should not sacrifice these principles in the pursuit of power or material wealth. Instead, we should employ them in serving others' interests. But to do so, we need a firm foundation in ethics, something I am confident the Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at MIT is dedicated to providing.

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