

Oath Against Harm in the Practice of the Dharma**

Para	Oath	Description	Notes
1	In the practice of the Dharma, I hold the student-teacher relationship to be a sacred connection which prioritises the spiritual development, maturation, and well-being of the student.	Student-Teacher Relationship	This paragraph encourages us to reflect on the purpose of the student-teacher relationship is, and to honour it.
2	Similarly, I hold that Dharma organisations exist to provide safe environments which allow those who practice the Dharma to thrive in supportive communities, founded on aspirations of good-will for all, and supported by a strong ethical foundation of non-harming.	Responsibilities of Organisations (and therefore of the members)	Organisations that function well do not create an environment for abuse. Provides the motivation for effective codes of conduct and grievance procedures to help keep everyone safe.
3	I acknowledge that any behaviour which would be categorised as abusive – whether emotionally, physically, financially, psychologically or sexually – or which is exploitative, coercive, or an abuse of power, or which attempts to cover-up such behaviour, is harmful and unnecessary in the practice of the Dharma. It is unacceptable in all circumstances.	No kind of abuse or exploitation is acceptable	Spelling out the behaviour that has caused harm within Dharma organisations. So there is no wriggle room.
4	I am aware that harm has been caused by failures to meet these standards in the past, and I declare my commitment to maintaining them for the well-being and benefit of all. May this commitment help the Dharma to flourish, both now and in the future, and may it help to alleviate suffering and create a more compassionate world.	Motivation & intention in making commitment	Acknowledging that people have been harmed and therefor the impetus to take the oath. Expressing a vision of what we hope will result from taking it.

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** If endorsing as a group, organisation, or community, please replace “I” with “we” and similar. The Oath should be re-affirmed annually.