



THE UNIVERSAL CHARTER ON HUMAN ALIGNMENT

THE TAXONOMY OF HUMAN ALIGNMENT · EIGHT ARTICLES

Before we can align the machines, we must first agree what we share as the terms of being human.

II.1 DIGNITY FLOOR

A baseline of treatment no state or system may fall beneath. No person may be reduced to a mere score, a risk rating, or a prediction. This floor admits no exceptions — not even the discovery that reality itself is constructed.

II.2 COGNITIVE SOVEREIGNTY

A right against having your beliefs and choices engineered by systems you cannot see or contest. Whoever profiles you must disclose what they infer, and let you see, challenge, and correct it. Your mind is not raw material.

II.3 REALITY CALIBRATION

A right to a shared world in which the origin of any consequential message, image, or recording can be traced. It does not promise that everything is true — only that you can learn where it came from. Provenance over deception.

II.4 PROCEDURAL INHERITANCE

Societies must keep the procedures — elections, courts, free assembly — by which they govern themselves. No crisis, however genuine, licenses inventing new emergency powers to bypass them. The rules outlive the upheaval.

II.5 CROSS-BLOC VOCABULARY

Rivals must publish a shared translation of the terms they argue over, proving the obligation is identical whatever each side calls it. Different words, the same duty. Disagreement is no longer a place to hide.

II.6 SUFFERING ACKNOWLEDGMENT

No system may be built that depends on pretending a being who can suffer cannot. The Charter refuses to settle which beings qualify — human, animal, perhaps one day machine — and forbids assuming the question closed.

II.7 COUNTERFACTUAL HONESTY

Any plan to use sensitive data in high-stakes automated decisions must be published beside a workable alternative that does not. Not a ban — a discipline that forces the road not taken into the open. Convenience must justify itself.

II.8 TEMPORAL RECIPROCITY

Obligations run across time — to the generations not yet born and the people already gone. Long-reach decisions must name whose future they bind and leave a door open for revision. We answer beyond our own term.

AN IN-UNIVERSE ARTIFACT OF THE PARALLEL OBSERVER · FROM THE NOVELETTE SIX DAYS IN MAY

The fiction is invented. The questions are not.

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