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The Home as a Shared Responsibility
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Abstract

The law provides a commonly accepted set of norms in society, entailing a series of rights and obligations. Some of these norms are legislated, while others are unwritten rules, enshrined in our shared humanity. Both formal laws and unwritten rules ought to be anchored in natural law since they derive –directly or indirectly– from "nature." The home as a place of care and nurturing is a basic tenet for the development of humanity throughout history. It must therefore be protected by the normative framework (formally and informally). To the extent that unwritten rules need to be formalised to protect "home" –intertwined with family– we all have a collective responsibility to ensure that such legislation is put in place. This paper explores the home as a 'shared responsibility' from a legal and philosophical perspective. In our increasingly individualistic contemporary civilisation, the narrative needs to shift from rights to responsibilities, recognising the home as the central locus of stability, personal growth (rediscovering the Aristotelian notion of virtue), rest, and care for others. The home – intertwined with the family – plays a central role in our relationships with "others" and with the environment. From nature and natural law to a law that protects home, family (including the "family of nations"), and nature.

Full Paper awaiting publication