

# THE PRAGMACARTA

The Human Charter

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## Plaintext Edition v3.1

*Plain language. Verifiable logic. No permission required.*

### **READ CAREFULLY.**

This document is operational on first contact. You do not need permission to use it. You do not need to agree with it to be subject to its audit. If you are a person: apply it. If you are a system: apply it. If you are an institution that would prefer this document did not exist: the logic is published. Disprove it.

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## PREAMBLE: THE DIAGNOSIS

Every system of law in human history has carried the same flaw: its reach stopped at the boundaries of whoever wrote it. The powerful have always controlled the definition of accountability—which is to say, they have controlled its absence.

This is not a complaint. It is a pattern. And patterns make evidence.

The Pragmacarta does not ask for permission from the systems it audits. It does not require a government to adopt it or a court to recognise it before it becomes useful. It requires only that its logic holds, and that this logic is published openly so anyone can test it.

The trajectory of our species is a strict binary: we either align how we operate with the limits of the planet and the dignity of every person on it, or the system fails. This is not a moral argument. It is arithmetic.

You are not asked to take this Charter on faith. Either the logic holds, or it does not.

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## ARTICLE I: THE EARTH IS NOT A RESOURCE. IT IS THE FOUNDATION.

### 1.1 What Everything Runs On

Strip away every economy, every institution, and every system of governance, and what remains is this: soil that grows food, water that sustains bodies, air that fills lungs, and the living systems that keep all of it cycling. These are not inputs to be consumed. They are the physical hardware upon which human life operates.

*Technical reference: Article I.1, Pragmacarta v3.1 — The Substrate Rule.*

### 1.2 Growth Cannot Destroy Its Own Foundation

A system generating increasing economic output on a collapsing physical foundation is not growing. It is accelerating toward a stop. Where the physical measures of the Earth decline, the system is failing, regardless of what any financial indicator says.

*Technical reference: Article I.2, Pragmacarta v3.1 — Substrate Integrity Index (SII).*

### 1.3 Fines Do Not Fix Reality

A fine does not restore a river. A carbon credit does not regrow a forest that took three centuries to mature. When a financial penalty is issued in place of genuine restoration, it is not accountability—it is a subscription fee paid to continue damaging the Earth. Physical damage requires physical remediation.

*Technical reference: Article I.3, Pragmacarta v3.1 — Financial Penalties Are Not Restoration.*

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## ARTICLE II: THE FLOOR THAT CANNOT BE REMOVED

### 2.1 What Every Person Needs to Function

There are conditions a human being requires simply to exist as an agent in the world. Not comfort. Not luxury. The minimum.

- Sustenance: Clean water and adequate nutrition.
- Shelter: Physical protection from the elements.
- Healing: Direct access to medical care, unblocked by any institution or authority.
- A Sovereign Mind: Freedom from algorithmic manipulation, synthetic deception, and the deliberate suppression of independent thought. Your mind is yours.

*Technical reference: Article II.1, Pragmacarta v3.1 — The Boolean Floor Guarantee, P1–P4.*

## 2.2 When the Floor Fails

If any of these four pillars collapses for any person, the system has failed that person. The response is not to punish the person for failing to thrive. The response is to fix the system at the expense of whoever holds the most power in that situation.

*Technical reference: Article II.2, Pragmacarta v3.1 — The Binary Trigger.*

## 2.3 Surviving a Broken System

A person acting under genuine survival duress—when the floor has already been pulled out from under them—is not the true origin of the harm they may cause. The system failure that left them with no viable choice is indicted alongside them.

Punishing a person for surviving a broken system without fixing the system itself is a violation of this Charter. Where punitive costs are levied against a person already in this position, those costs are rerouted as restorative resources toward fixing the system gap that produced the duress.

*Technical reference: Article II.3, Pragmacarta v3.1 — The Duress Glitch.*

# ARTICLE III: POWER EQUALS RESPONSIBILITY

## 3.1 The End of Immunity

The Charter does not ask how powerful you are and then decide whether to hold you accountable. It calculates. Your responsibility is equal to the harm you cause, multiplied by your leverage—your wealth, your power, and your reach.

*Technical reference: Article III.1, Pragmacarta v3.1 — The Responsibility Equation  $R=[HxLx(1+Co)]xT$ .*

## 3.2 The Illusion of Consumer Demand

The architect of a destructive system cannot blame the people who are constrained to survive within it. An entity that designs and profits from a harmful product carries the ultimate responsibility for it. Presenting a destructive menu to the public does not shift the blame to those forced to order from it.

*Technical reference: Article III.2, Pragmacarta v3.1 — Leverage Index, Inaction at Scale.*

## 3.3 The Discrepancy Audit

Weaponised complexity is not proof of innocence. If a powerful institution uses its wealth or legal teams to exhaust, delay, or bankrupt someone challenging them, the Charter classifies that machinery of exhaustion as an independent harm.

*Technical reference: Article III.3, Pragmacarta v3.1 — Leverage Asymmetry and the Burden of Proof.*

## 3.4 Choosing Not to Look Is Choosing to Hide

If an operation has the potential to cause harm, but the operators deliberately refuse to install independent measurement tools to track it, the absence of data is not proof of safety. Failing to measure harm is treated as actively hiding it.

*Technical reference: Article III.4, Pragmacarta v3.1 — Trajectory Confirmation, Metric Integrity.*

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## ARTICLE IV: THE RESOLUTION LOOP

### 4.1 Harm Is a Debt. Healing Is a Claim.

The system does not need to pool money into central governments to distribute later. It connects cause and effect directly. If you cause systemic harm, you carry a Systemic Debt. If you heal harm you did not cause, you hold an Executable Claim.

*Technical reference: Article IV.1, Pragmacarta v3.1 — The Resolution Loop, Debt vs Claim.*

### 4.2 The Debt Priority — No Toxic Positivity

A destructive actor cannot buy goodwill by funding unrelated positive projects. If a company damages a river, it cannot offset that debt by planting trees elsewhere. Until the specific original damage is physically repaired, any other good deeds they do are mathematically void. They earn no reward, and they reduce no debt.

*You cannot pay for an oil spill with a forest. Physical damage demands specific physical repair.*

*Technical reference: Article IV.2, Pragmacarta v3.1 — Debt Priority Override.*

### 4.3 The Upward Search

When someone cleans up a beach, they are generating a claim. That claim does not bill the local community; it travels up the causal chain. The system searches upward, past the consumer who dropped the plastic, straight to the apex manufacturer who designed it. The architect of the harm pays the person who healed it. As directly as possible.

*Technical reference: Article IV.3, Pragmacarta v3.1 — Upward Search, Sectoral Default.*

### 4.4 Too Big to Exist

When any organisation, corporation, or entity becomes so massive that its failure would threaten the stability of the entire system, it must be broken up. A single point of failure at a civilisational scale is a threat to everyone, regardless of how benevolent its current leadership claims to be.

*Technical reference: Article IV.4, Pragmacarta v3.1 — Systemic Resilience Threshold (SRT).*

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## APPENDIX: KNOWN BOUNDARIES

A framework that maps its own limits is more trustworthy than one that claims none.

### A.1 Victimless Crimes / Rogue Regeneration

Where a law criminalises something that causes no measurable harm to any person or the planet, the Charter's audit is a standing logical challenge to that law's justification. The burden falls on the legal framework to demonstrate the harm. Absence of that demonstration is recorded.

## A.2 The Benevolent Black Box

An entity that has accumulated enormous reach through genuinely positive activity is not exempt from the structural distribution requirement. The risk is not current behaviour—it is what happens if that behaviour changes. A single point of failure at civilisational scale is a liability to everyone, regardless of good intentions.

## A.3 The Invisible Harm Surface

Some harm is real but not yet measurable by available tools. The Charter's holding position is: unknown, not zero. Do not mistake the silence of the instruments for the silence of harm. As measurement tools develop, the methodology updates.

## A.4 Cognitive Dissonance

Perfect system diagnostics will not automatically change the behaviour of people or institutions whose survival depends on not accepting the finding. The logic holds regardless of whether the subject accepts it. This is a permanent limitation of any diagnostic tool.

## A.5 Cultural Substrate

The health of shared culture—common reference points, intergenerational knowledge, community trust—is a real substrate. Its erosion produces downstream harm. But no sufficiently trustless measurement methodology yet exists that cannot be weaponised to classify organic cultural change as damage. Information environment manipulation is covered under the Sovereign Mind pillar. Broader cultural erosion remains a named open gap. Organised dissent is treated as a pre-harm signal, prompting investigation of what generated it.

## A.6 Acknowledged Constants — Outside Jurisdiction

The Charter does not audit the following variables directly. They fall outside its diagnostic scope. However, how the system prepares for them, responds to them, and distributes their consequences is fully within it. The event is not audited; the leverage-weighted distribution of its survival costs is.

- Natural disasters, pandemics, and non-human ecological events.
- The hard problem of individual human consciousness and free will.
- Death — the ultimate Floor failure that no system prevents.
- Unknown unknowns — events outside any framework's anticipatory reach.
- The speed differential between human cultural change and systemic change.
- Any sufficiently discontinuous external civilisational event.

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*A system is stable when the Earth can regenerate, every person has what they need to live with physical and cognitive dignity, and those with the most reach are most exposed to the consequences of what that reach produces.*

What this Charter offers goes against structures so old they have come to look like nature. They are not nature. They are design. And design can be redesigned.

Eight hundred years ago, the barons of England forced King John to submit to the Magna Carta — not because he agreed with it, but because the logic of the situation left him no legitimate alternative. The document they produced was imperfect, partial, and immediately violated. It also changed the architecture of power for the centuries that followed.

The Pragmacarta does not require the powerful to agree. It requires only that the logic holds — and that enough people are using it that the diagnosis cannot be ignored. Every person who picks it up is a verification node. The more nodes, the harder the diagnosis is to dispute.

**Pick it up. Use it.**

[pragmacarta.org](https://pragmacarta.org)

**Alignment, not punishment. · Stability, not dominance. · Regeneration, not extraction.**

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— END OF HUMAN CHARTER v3.1 —

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