

## Charter OF Human DUTIES

### A Corpo Nacional de Escutas proposal

WE BELIEVE IN MAN as a gregarious being, endowed with rights and duties that structure His life and communal living... WE BELIEVE THAT THE EXISTENCE of individual rights conferred to Man is a precondition for freedom, for justice and for peace... WE BELIEVE THERE are several instruments, declarations and letters consecrating universal human rights in different areas... WE BELIEVE THAT THE UNIVERSALLY recognized human rights are a postulate of the guarantees that the States must provide, promote and ensure to every human being... WE BELIEVE THAT, IN A COMMUNITY, the individuals have not only rights but are also committed to duties... WE BELIEVE THAT THE FULFILLMENT of duties in society should not be rooted exclusively, but subsidiary, on the action or impulse of governmental entities... WE BELIEVE THAT EVERY MAN is responsible for the performance of individual duties that will serve to better achieve the purpose and implementation of freedom, justice and peace... WE BELIEVE THAT TO FULLY and extensively experience the universally recognized rights, it is necessary that each human being is an active partner in respect of their duties...

WE BELIEVE THAT A COMMON understanding of these duties is of the utmost importance for the full realization of universal rights.

Therefore, the CORPO NACIONAL DE ESCUTAS - PORTUGUESE CATHOLIC SCOUTING presents, in their framework and as a result of an internal reflection and participation process, this proposed CHARTER OF HUMAN DUTIES, a definitive set of the obligations that should be individually promoted and met in order to achieve a complete expression of the individual responsibility in the pursuit of the common good, a full realization of the universal rights and full experience of freedom, justice and peace.

## **ME**

**MAN HAS THE DUTY TO SEEK OUT THE TRUTH.** The truth, which is beyond Man, clarifies and illuminates the path and the existence of Man himself. Questioning his existence, and its reasons and circumstances, is a primary element of human identity. To know oneself, understand the world around him, to go beyond the senses, seeking knowledge and meaning are challenges for each and every Man.

**MAN HAS THE DUTY TO HOLD VALUES.** Values are the foundation of existence and human relations. Source of individual attitude and judgment, their particular assumption gives identity to each man, structuring the social and cultural interaction between men. A man cannot, in dialogue with others, but be based and grow within a framework of values, and express it in his everyday gestures.

**MAN HAS THE DUTY TO SEEK TO IMPROVE HIS CONDITION.** The special condition of each man is not, at the outset, something that results of personal choice; but his attitude towards it is: to conform or to look to better it. Each man has both strengths and weaknesses, and it's in his hands to accept and develop them in the pursuit of happiness.

**MAN HAS THE DUTY TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH TIME AND DISPOSE OF IT CAREFULLY.** Time frames Man and his existence. It is beyond Man and it marks his whole existence and the sense conferred to it. The ephemeral and progressive nature of earthly existence are beyond the reach of human action, so only the serene acceptance will allow him to find meaning in time. Challenge for every Man is to tune the pace of his life to the rhythm of time, not wasting it or living against it, but living it meaningfully.

## **THE OTHER**

**MAN HAS THE DUTY TO PRESERVE HIS FAMILY.** The family is the oldest and most natural form of human aggregation. Living as part of a family or family life is something intrinsic to Man himself. In family, Man is born, grows, is accomplished; in family man finds in his fragility, first-hand shelter and care. Preserving family is to integrate it, by embracing it and being its active member, in a spirit of communion and inter-generational living, which is structuring of Man himself.

**MAN HAS THE DUTY TO RESPECT OTHERS AND THEIR AWARENESS, PROMOTING AGREEMENT.**

The other is as much of a person as me, regardless how different he may be to me. Each person is unique, born within different cultures and traditions, with different beliefs and opinions, and has their own life experiences. Every man should see the other as another self, respect him in his individuality, beyond all differences, respect their consciousness, freely formed and promote a healthy coexistence between all; a living where the individuality of each is an expression of his freedom and where mutual respect is the guarantor of social harmony.

**MAN HAS THE DUTY TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN PURSUIT OF COMMON GOOD.** The common good is the full accomplishment of a community as personal fulfilment of each and all of its individuals. Only with the accomplishment of all individuals can we achieve complete fulfilment of Man. Each man must actively contribute not only for his own personal welfare, but also for the good of the common one .

**MAN HAS A DUTY TO PROTECT, GROW AND PASS ON THE LEGACY THAT PREVIOUS GENERATIONS BEQUEATHED HIM.** Generations precede each man, and generations will succeed him. In the course of time, a heritage - estate, culture, civilization - is going through generations, passing from one to another, building up, improving, adapting. It is a line of continuity where every man participates first receiving, finally passing, marking it in the meantime, with his personal touch. It may be a more or less marked imprint, but one that ensures a smooth continuity.

## NATURE

MAN HAS THE DUTY TO PRESERVE NATURE IN ALL ITS FORMS. Nature, being diverse and multilayered, is the material basis of human existence; in it Man is integrated, in it he moves, in it Man develops his society, culture and civilization. It is up to Man, to ensure that his presence and development does not go against the preservation and continuity of biodiversity.

MAN HAS THE DUTY TO SUSTAINABLY BENEFIT FROM NATURAL RESOURCES. Natural resources are fundamental to human development and Man has the right to use them and benefit from their purpose. This usage, which is a right, becomes a duty regarding how it should be accomplished. In nature, balance -in several dimensions - is essential for continuity and preservation. Sustainability in use is a duty of each and every Man.