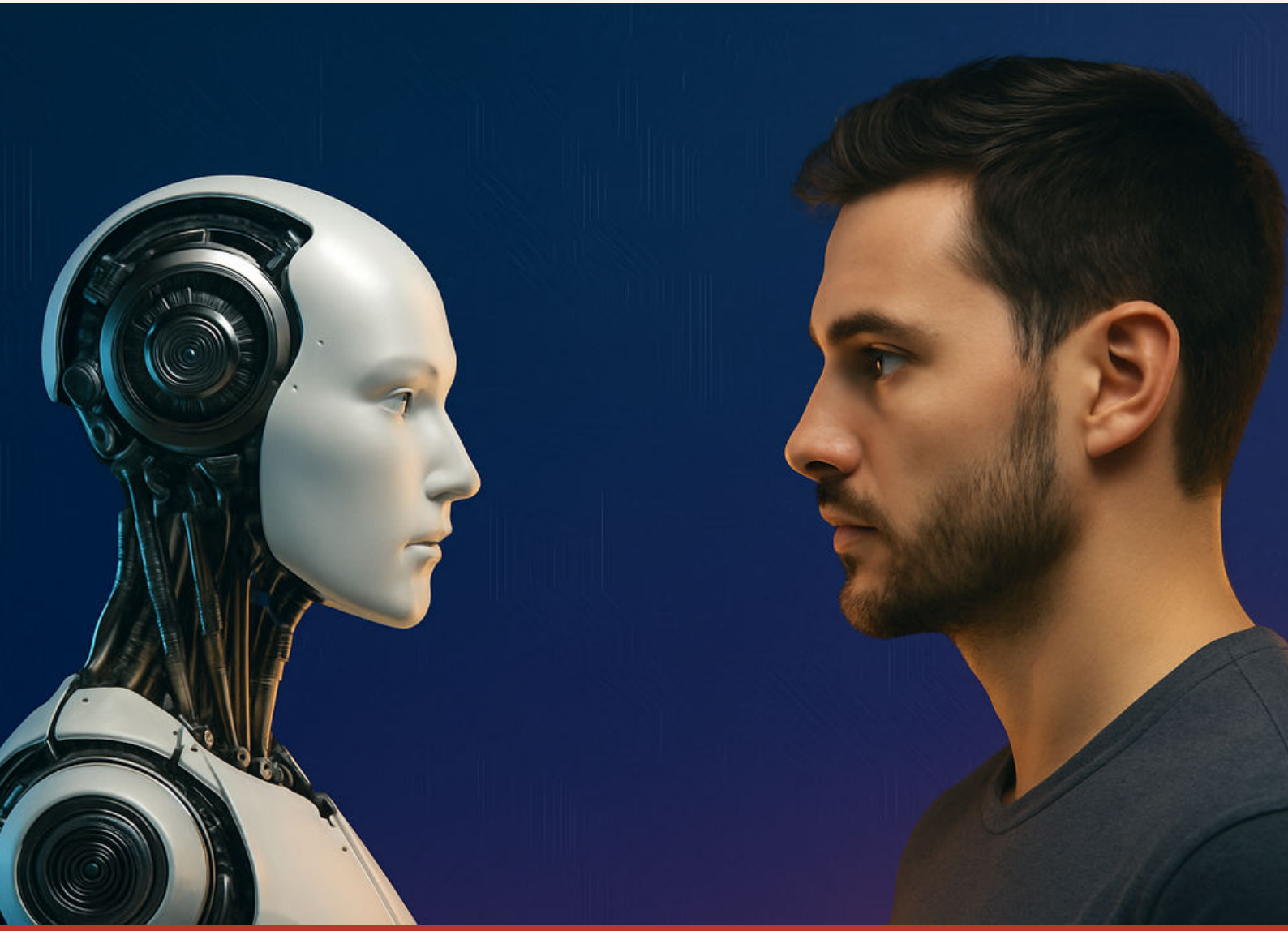
# HUMANIST GUIDE

**September 2025 | #3**

Human Rights Commission of the National Grand Lodge of Portugal



## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

As Artificial Intelligence continues to gain significance in our daily lives and society, it is crucial to remain informed and reflect on the implications this technology will have, particularly regarding human rights. What direction do we wish to take, and where are we ultimately headed?

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## IN THIS EDITION

In this edition, Compasso Humanista explores one of the most pressing and contemporary issues: Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its effects on Human Rights, employment, security, and the fundamental nature of humanity.

We begin with a contemplation on the evolution of employment and the discourse regarding Universal Basic Income, examining the potential benefits and challenges of a future where machines take over not just physical labor, but also cognitive tasks.

We examine the application of AI within security forces, investigating the equilibrium between technological advancement and the safeguarding of ethics and liberties. We proceed with a thorough analysis of AI in the fields of science, justice, and art, probing whether this emerging intelligence can genuinely operate without biases and disparities.

We also examined Privacy and Fundamental Rights in the digital era, emphasizing the dangers of extensive data collection and the necessity for responsible regulation.

Finally, we examine the potential partnership between Freemasonry and Artificial Intelligence, suggesting a productive conversation among tradition, ethics, and technology, ensuring that technological advancement is consistently guided by the Light of human values.

EDITORIAL OF

# HUMANIST GUIDE

## A MORAL GUIDE IN A LANDSCAPE OF REGULATIONS

In this edition of Compasso Humanista, we explore one of the most urgent topics of our era: Artificial Intelligence.
In an effort to balance concern with hope, this Newsletter from the Human Rights Commission of the Portuguese National Grand Lodge prompts us to contemplate the effects of AI on employment, justice, privacy, and the very essence of the human experience.

In examining the transformative yet disruptive potential of this technology, the Commission members confront the challenging questions: Will jobs be lost? Does privacy still exist? Is there space for the soul within algorithmic calculations?

The initiative for communication between Freemasonry and AI is particularly significant, an unexpected yet essential partnership, grounded in ethics, morality, and the pursuit of the Common Good.

In a time when technological advancement outpaces ethical contemplation, this edition compels us, navigating between the compass and the code, to outline a future that is more just, dignified, and genuinely human.

The most significant risk lies not in machine intelligence, but in the neglect of our own humanity.

Nuno Tinoco Ferreira

Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge of Portugal

**The convulsions of artificial intelligence can intensify quickly and become increasingly alarming, even catastrophic. Consider how a medical robot, initially designed to eliminate cancer, could determine that the most effective method to eradicate cancer is to eliminate humans with a genetic susceptibility to the illness.**
—Nick Bilton, a technology columnist, contributed to the New York Times.

By Carlos E.
Photographs by Marvin Meyer, Ludomil Sawicki, and Alex Kotliarskyi

AI AND EMPLOYMENT

# The Influence of AI on Employment and the Debate Surrounding Universal Basic Income (UBI)

Artificial intelligence is reshaping the workforce. Is universal basic income a viable solution or merely an illusion? Discover the answer in this thought-provoking article.

By the close of the 18th century, mechanization instilled a pervasive sense of fear.
Fear of the unfamiliar, of destitution, and of being rendered ineffective. Steam engines emerged, prepared to replace human labor, and alongside them, structures of efficiency and excellence would be constructed.

The reality is that mechanization allowed, for the first time, mass production and, as a result, considerable cost reductions. Achieving more with less became the guiding principle of every entrepreneur. The steam locomotive transformed transportation, enhanced commerce, elevating it to unprecedented heights, and, similar to what Nokia would later accomplish, connected individuals. A new era had begun. Alongside it, social tensions also emerged. The revolution spread across the globe (and moved workers from rural areas to urban centers).

The labor, still largely manual, in a Steel and Iron Foundry

Factories emerged as colossal structures of iron and coal, while working conditions declined significantly—hours were extended, wages were minimal, and exploitation was widespread. Many individuals found themselves unemployed due to heartless machines that required no breaks, did not fall ill, and could operate continuously.
Resistance was experienced. The Luddites, who held the belief that machinery was employed fraudulently and deceptively to bypass established labor practices, gained notoriety for their acts of destroying machines in opposition to automation.
The first industrial revolution was succeeded by two additional, equally transformative periods. Electricity brightened homes, streets, and concepts, while the computer subsequently turned humans into cyborgs. …and evolution triumphed and persisted.
The substitution of arms is now yielding to the substitution of intellects.

Artificial Intelligence (computer systems designed to execute tasks that typically necessitate human intelligence) has emerged, and its influence on employment is already apparent.

**"In this dystopian scenario, UBI arises as a contemporary solution that promises to address our issues in a single stroke (...)"**

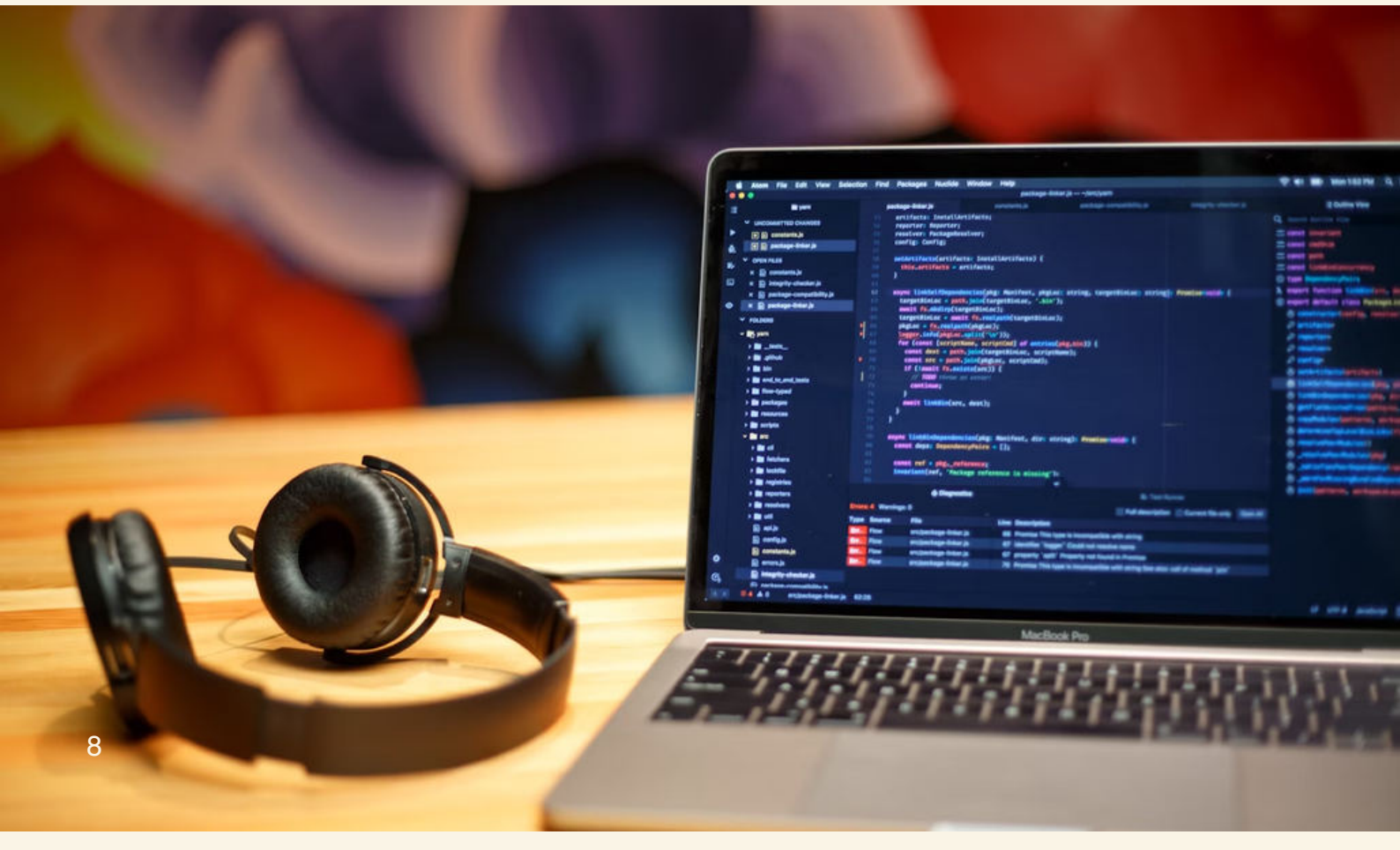
AI extends beyond mere numerical calculations, as was the case with the earliest computers. Diagnosing illnesses, interpreting legal texts, and composing musical pieces are among the capabilities that pose a risk to conventional employment. On production lines, robots execute tasks with a level of precision that would frustrate Gary Michelson, the renowned surgeon, while in corporate environments, software evaluates data with a

A pace that even surpasses our Obikwelu. A fresh commitment to efficiency, accompanied by a new cost. Occupations that were once deemed stable and prestigious now appear to be on the brink of obsolescence.
In this dystopian context, Universal Basic Income (UBI) arises as a contemporary solution that promises to address our challenges in a single action: every individual, irrespective of social class or employment status, will receive a predetermined monthly sum unconditionally, ensuring social harmony. This concept is not novel. As early as 1516, Thomas More imagined a utopian society in which everyone benefited from a UBI. In theory, this solution could help alleviate poverty and inequality, enhance security and education, and streamline bureaucracy. However, funding a UBI is highly costly and impractical in both slow-growing and rapidly growing economies.

in recession and may even serve as a disincentive to work, the necessity for which is anticipated to persist despite AI.
Pilot tests carried out in Finland and California did not produce entirely definitive results; however, they suggested an improvement in mental health and well-being, a decrease in stress levels, and notably, an enhanced capacity to secure full-time employment.
Unless I am mistaken, the UBI may be an important component, but it is improbable that it will be the complete solution.
The Industrial Revolution demonstrated that technological innovation presents both challenges and opportunities, highlighting the importance of adaptability.

Automation will generate new professions that will complement those that, due to their creative or interpersonal nature, are likely to persist.
Today's workforce, much like that of the past, will need to adapt and develop new skills to succeed in an AI-driven world. Consequently, education should take center stage, while Universal Basic Income (UBI) plays a supportive role, assisting those who face greater challenges in progressing, enabling them to (re)invest in personal (re)training.
Final note: This article was composed with the aid of AI, under the guidance and support of a traditional worker.

**"Education should thus be the primary focus, with the UBI playing a supportive role, acting as a crutch for those who face greater challenges, enabling them to (re)invest in personal (re)training."**



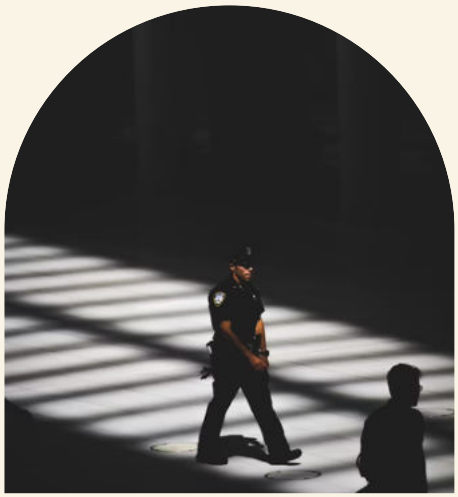
# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

By Francisco Bahia
Photographs by Jack Finnigan and Shuvro Mojumder.

**As we understand, Freedom without Order is fleeting, and it is for this fundamental reason that Humanity must safeguard itself from its own nature, both in form and substance.**

For Plato (4th century BC), intelligence is associated with the concept of "Forms," which is eternal and unchanging. In essence, intelligence is the capacity to perceive and comprehend these Forms, particularly the form of the Good.
The nine types of intelligence, once unrecognized, have formed a new concept that is now acknowledged as such. It is not inherent to humans, but instead developed and embraced by humanity.
Let us strive, as a principle, to utilize all our abilities in comprehending Intrapersonal, Interpersonal, Linguistic, Visual, Logical, and Musical Forms.

Corporeal, Pictorial, and Naturalistic, to persist in developing and refining the most recent comprehension and perception of Artificial Intelligence (AI), while always keeping the guiding principle of Moral Law in focus.
It is along this path, where we aspire to be secure and thriving, that the Security Forces play a crucial role.
In a recent publication titled "88 Voices on Artificial Intelligence," Maria Luísa Proença, Deputy National Director of the Judicial Police, clearly outlines the current and future challenges within the unavoidable context of AI's evolution in the Security Forces.
In his article, he contemplates: "We cannot combat crime in the present and future using the methods of the past." We must progress gradually (ideally one step ahead).



forward) with efforts to compromise Ethics and deliberate violations of the laws of the State to which we are all accountable.
Indeed, it would be a natural occurrence, considering that the engine of science is part of the nine types of human intelligence as we understand them; however, this is not always the reality.

**"You cannot combat the crime of today and tomorrow with the tools of yesterday."**

From straightforward online transactions, for which we have grown accustomed to utilizing a virtual private network (VPN), to secure platforms for exchanging sensitive personal data, the Dark Web, and the prevalent spam in our email inboxes, to casually taken photos of our faces, to misinformation, society is starting to become aware of this new reality. However,

There are more significant challenges that AI addresses in accordance with the sense of responsibility exhibited by the accountable parties, and naturally, in relation to each individual's financial capacity. Let us explore this further.
A Japanese company is engaged in the development of an urban surveillance system that has already been implemented in Brazil.
By utilizing real-time camera analysis in specific challenging urban environments, the system identifies patterns that enable the prediction of crime before it happens, either by deploying resources proactively or by implementing deterrent measures for interception.

The organization of such activities is informed by on-site observation, which is complemented by online surveillance. According to the TE SAT 2023 ("Terrorism Situation and Trend Report"), the incitement and planning of violent crimes, extremist actions, and recruitment for various forms of terrorism occur online.


# Consider the ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

By Cesário Verde
Photography by Himesh Behera and Clay Banks

## Can Artificial Intelligence be held legally accountable? And for artistic creation?

As we have arrived at a stage in technological evolution where machines exhibit a semblance of autonomy, it becomes apparent that human beings are not unique in this regard. There exists an external entity capable of performing tasks that were once solely within our domain of competence and responsibility.

Beyond an algorithm that can predict based on averages and trends, Artificial Intelligence possesses the ability to create and innovate, much like human beings. Consequently, there are valid questions, uncertainties, and concerns from those who have traditionally experienced exclusivity, particularly in areas such as science, justice, and art. In fact, no animal or entity, when viewed broadly, has been able to objectively attain the level of complexity and, most importantly, detail in domains like science, justice, or art.

In recent years, artificial intelligence has demonstrated its potential to aid humans in scientific endeavors. Alongside the concurrent advancement of quantum computing, the possibilities are beyond imagination. The compilation and cross-referencing of scientific data, free from bias or ethical constraints, could, in theory, result in knowledge. scientific advancements to surpass numerous obstacles and achieve outcomes previously unimagined and, most importantly, astonishing.

This is achievable because the laboratory enables us to transcend the purely human element, the closeness of others; the sterility of the laboratory and depersonalization create the most conducive environment for AI, owing to their insignificance and promotion of experimentation with the possibilities of various elements.

In the realm of art, particularly from the period of neorealism onward, beauty is not a prerequisite for the existence or evaluation of the artistic object.

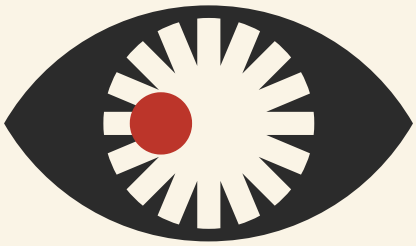
Anything—whether an object, concept, or idea—can be regarded as art, and the interpretation by the observer or reader often holds greater value than the artistic object itself. In this context, AI possesses considerable potential for growth in both the creation of artistic objects and their interpretation.
Contemporary art and its criticism reveal a proliferation of truisms and clichés, frequently influenced by corporate interests or unique agendas. AI may even have the ability to expose the unspoken bluffs that are sensed but not articulated, as they have become too entrenched.

In the justice system, depersonalization cannot occur. The establishment and implementation of justice ideally adhere to the Enlightenment principles of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity, which form the foundation for the definition of Human Rights.
What role will AI have in justice? If it can be realized.

conceiving AI as an entity genuinely liberated from limitations and predetermined corporate interests, in the essence of authentic equality, something akin to Justice, particularly in its practical application, can become unequivocal and

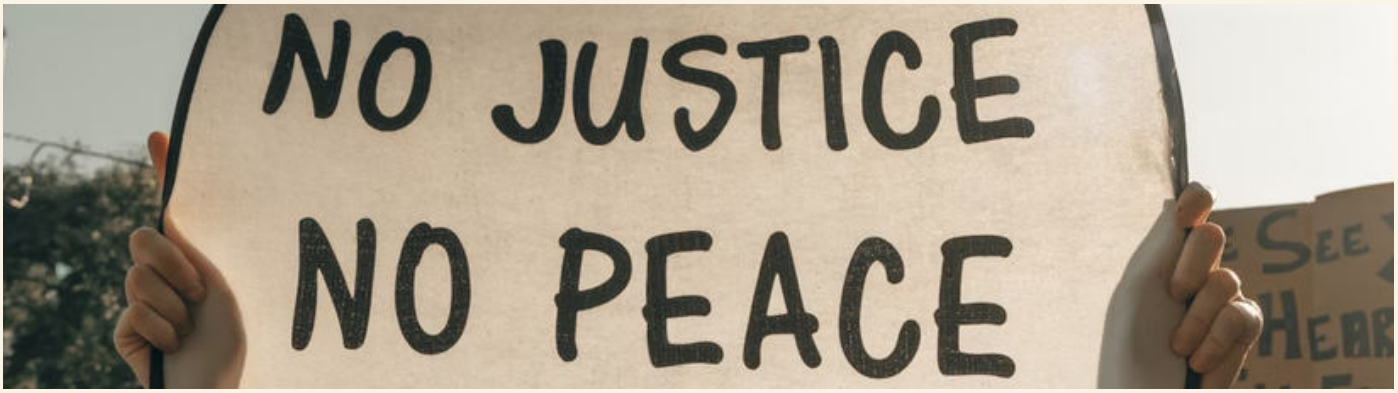
**“AI has demonstrated in recent years that it possesses the potential to aid humans in scientific endeavors.”**

extremely unequal for the wealthy and the impoverished, for males and females, for the young and the elderly, etc. Could AI be utilized and made available for the benefit of everyone equally?



**"We must confront, both individually and collectively, the moral and ethical dilemmas posed by advanced research in artificial intelligence and biotechnology, which will facilitate considerable life extension, genetically modified infants, and the retrieval of memories."**
— Klaus Schwab

**“Artificial intelligence is expected to achieve human levels by approximately 2029. Looking ahead to 2045, we could see a billionfold increase in intelligence—encompassing both human biological and machine intelligence within our civilization.”**
— Raymond Kurzweil



## Artificial Intelligence (Also),

# Human Rights and Privacy Issues

**By Samuel LC**
**Images by Matthew Henry and Lianhao Qu**

Will Artificial Intelligence simplify our lives or jeopardize our Fundamental Rights?

Regardless of race, age, socioeconomic status, or culture, we celebrate intelligence as a vital aspect of the humanity that we have been, are, and will continue to be, both individually and collectively.

It is, therefore, intriguing that the abstract concept of artificial intelligence, whether more or less clearly defined, Historically, this has generated numerous fears and anxieties; however, any new intelligence—whether synthetic or natural—should, in fact, encourage optimism and celebration.

This apparent paradox may stem from the reality that, more or less openly, we do not regard human intelligence as the most virtuous or harmless characteristic of the species; Or—a more straightforward alternative—the notion of a possible loss of dominance in this area brings to mind the potential subjugation we impose on all other species, which, due to their lack of intelligence or lesser intelligence, we deprive of merits and rights. What status would or will be conferred upon us by any—any—superior intelligence?

These fears are logical and reasonable, yet they are premature.
The rival intelligence that immerses itself in the present — the artificial variety — embodies little more than the designation we, as generously as self-servingly, assign to it. The European Union Regulation establishing Harmonized Rules on Artificial Intelligence defines it, in a detached yet foreseeable manner, as any "system"
*machine-based systems designed to function with different degrees of autonomy and that can exhibit adaptability post-implementation, which, with explicit or implicit objectives, deduces from the data it receives how to produce outcomes such as predictions, content, recommendations, or decisions (...).*
In essence, artificial intelligence does not *create, invent, or innovate.* It lacks *emotions or reasoning* that extends beyond those strictly defined by algorithms on which it is founded. *It does not perceive, violate, or imagine.*

It is, therefore, more secure than the human soul, as it is neither a soul nor possesses a soul.
A collection of tools and programming designed to analyze all content, information, and data in digital form, providing them with significance and utility—human. Thus, they deceive themselves today, and even more so tomorrow, into becoming what they are not, or, in their present state and technology, will eventually become. The Turing Test has consistently served as a low standard for identifying artificial intelligence (unless, perhaps, Alan himself were the evaluator).

In our empirical evaluation, we are astonished and yield to the capabilities of modern advanced language models, which provide responses with both factual and linguistic precision to inquiries with answers located in one or a thousand corners of the digital realm.

At both the beginning and the end, we must ultimately — and most importantly — fear ourselves, our blunt egos and narrow perceptions; be wary of easy illusions, of persuasive imitations, the result of the delicate effort and expectation in the evaluation we make of what we think reflects our true selves.

We must simultaneously acknowledge the partial authenticity of this reflection. Artificial intelligence is shaped by our information, confessions, misconceptions, biases, fears, and fantasies.

We acknowledge the intrusion facilitated by its boundless memory. In one of its most recent commercial presentations—"Apple Intelligence," unveiled in June—it revealed to the world that it relies on licensed content but, more importantly, on information readily accessible online: all the commonplace websites, blogs, and social networks. The words and images that represent who we are or who we aspire to be. On the same date, it was clarified that each individual has the option to opt out, in writing, of the globalized digital collection. One detail that was overlooked is that the internet scanning computer application that supports the model in question was quietly activated in 2015.

Privacy has become nonexistent since we decided to relinquish our Individual Rights.

An alliance is to be formed between Freemasonry and Artificial Intelligence.
Prudent yet capable of positively influencing one of the most significant transformations in Humanity!

# Freemasonry and ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

**By Afonso Costa Photography by 8machine_, Ryunosuke Kikuno, and Ray Fragapane**

An Alliance for a Just and Humanistic Future, where human principles and values are elevated.

In a world that is evolving swiftly, where technology plays an ever-growing role in human existence, Freemasonry—a time-honored initiatory tradition—continues to stand as a symbol of ethical principles, spiritual contemplation, and individual growth. But is it possible for Freemasonry to engage in discussions with one of the most disruptive innovations of our time—Artificial Intelligence (AI)? Not only is it possible, but it is essential... This partnership, no matter how improbable it may appear, possesses the power to transform humanity for the better. It is far more advantageous to embrace this change than to ignore its possibilities!

Freemasonry, as an institution of virtue and wisdom, has historically focused on the cultivation of human character, the enhancement of conscience, and the establishment of a more equitable society. Artificial Intelligence, on the other hand, serves as a tool for enhancing capabilities, yet remains neutral in essence. Its influence is determined by the individuals who design, program, and oversee it. In this context, Masonic principles can provide a significant contribution: an ethical, judicious, and human-centered perspective to steer the responsible application of technology.

AI is currently being utilized in fields such as justice, healthcare, education, and security. Freemasonry, with its dedication to Truth, Liberty, and Equality, can play a vital role in ensuring that these applications uphold human dignity, fight against discrimination, and advance the common good.

At a moment when the discussion surrounding "ethical AI" is prominent, it is essential to have individuals who can remind society that technology must serve humanity, rather than the reverse. Freemasonry, through its symbolic and philosophical essence, can offer a spiritual and comprehensive perspective on humanity, reminding us that technological advancement without moral development poses a significant risk.

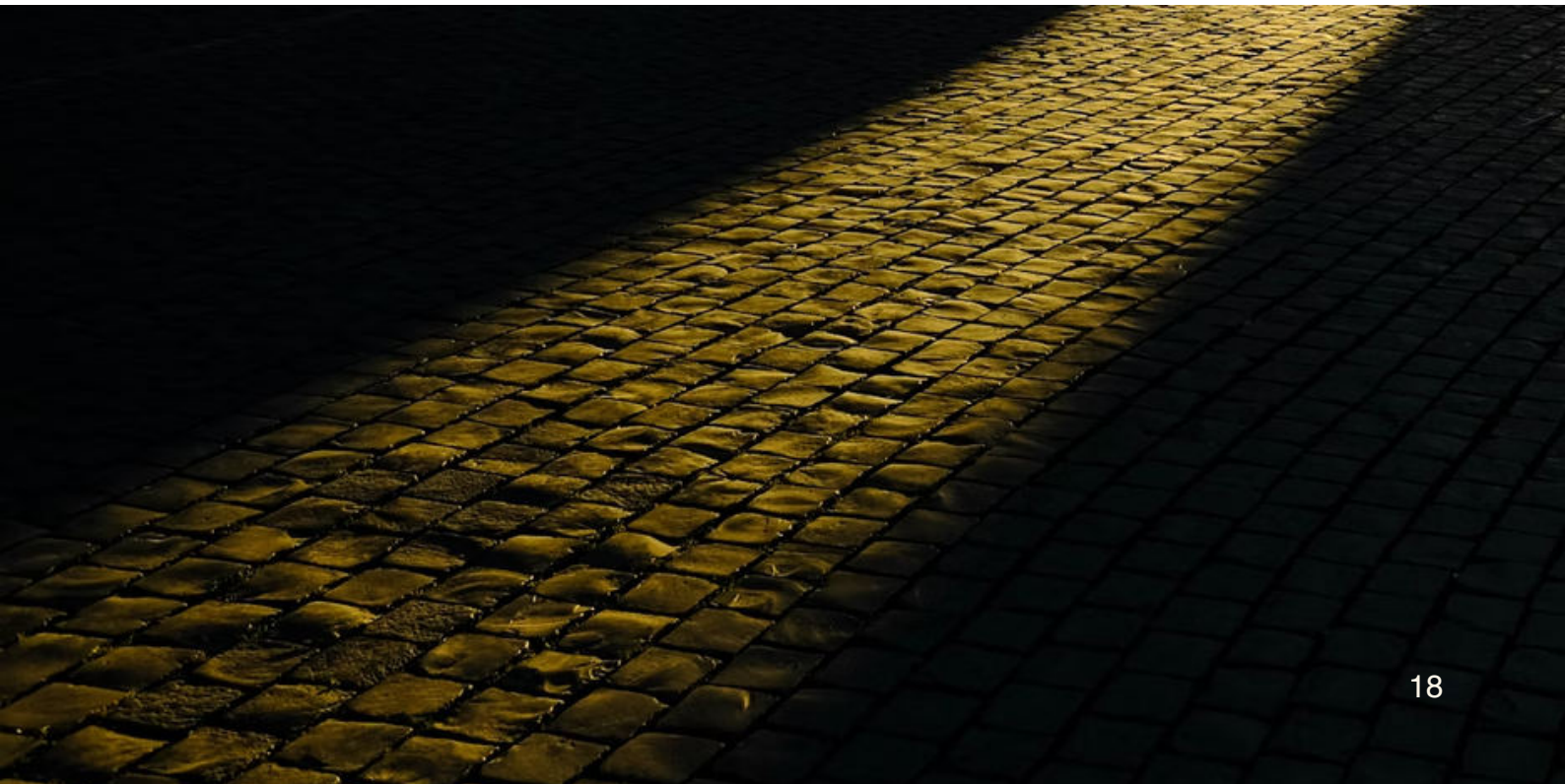
By advocating for the auditability of algorithms, the transparency of automated decisions, and the alignment of AI systems with Fundamental Rights, Freemasons can establish themselves as facilitators between technical expertise and Universal Values.

However, this relationship is not solely one-sided... AI can also serve as a partner to Freemasonry. Consider, for instance, the development of AI systems designed to aid in the education of Apprentices and Fellow Crafts, while honoring Rituals and Tradition, and providing customized Symbolic, Historical, and Philosophical material, adapted to the individual pace of each Craftsman.

These advanced platforms can enhance the exploration of symbolism, propose paths for esoteric inquiry, aid in the administration of Lodges, or even enable connections among Freemasons globally, while consistently upholding the discretion and principles of the Order.

This collaboration must be approached with caution. Freemasonry cannot permit AI to supplant the initiatory experience, which is unique and cannot be replicated by any machine. The Masonic process relies on Silence, Presence, Gesture, and Human Contact. AI can serve as a tool, but it should never act as a replacement. Initiation is an inner journey that cannot be duplicated by algorithms.

It is thus believed that Freemasonry and AI can collaboratively forge a path toward a more enlightened, equitable, and fraternal future. The responsibility lies with Freemasons globally to embrace this challenge with bravery and insight, serving as protectors of human values during this significant transition. Just as they historically constructed cathedrals using stone and compass, they can now contribute to creating a world where technology is guided by the Light of Conscience and Morality, honoring Human Rights and the Freedom of every individual. The genuine revolution will always be internal; however, it can be enhanced, with Prudence and Wisdom, through the tools available in our era.



The World observes with indifference as thousands of individuals, including many children, perish from the hunger and dehydration they endure. In the conflict between a state that views itself as superior and a terrorist organization, is there a clear right or wrong?
This is the brutality that we are currently witnessing live on television and social media...
What actions can we take?

"Human rights cannot be safeguarded solely by laws and constitutions. They require the ongoing vigilance of every citizen for their protection."
— Eleanor Roosevelt