

DURÁN AYAGO, Antonia, *Derechos humanos y métodos de reconocimiento de situaciones jurídicas: hacia la libre circulación de personas y familias* (Aranzadi, Pamplona 2024)

To begin the review of a book with such a suggestive and interesting topic as human rights and methods of recognizing legal situations in the context of the free movement of people and families, from an international and European perspective, it is necessary to indicate the relevance and focus of the work that it currently holds.

In the context of an increasingly interconnected world, the protection of human rights and the recognition of legal situations that enable the free movement of people and families have become essential topics for the development of international and European policies. The book “Human Rights and Methods of Recognition of Legal Situations: Towards the Free Movement of People and Families. International and European Perspective” addresses this contemporary challenge, exploring how human rights principles serve as the basis for ensuring the respect and protection of individuals in transit, as well as the recognition of their family and legal realities.

From an international and European perspective, the author analyzes the legal mechanisms and regulations that govern the mobility of individuals, highlighting the obstacles and progress in the implementation of policies that ensure respect for dignity and fundamental rights. The book proposes a critical review of existing legal instruments while presenting proposals to improve the regulatory framework, thus ensuring greater coherence and protection in cross-border contexts.

At this point, it is necessary to analyze the key aspects of the book, the topics it addresses, and its relevance in the field of human rights and international law.

In the first chapter, titled “Citizenship, Dignity, Free Development of the Individual, and Human Rights,” the author contextualizes human rights, noting that while some issues may seem evident, in the general theory of human rights, many things remain unclear (Wladimir Wlof). The author presents the legal framework of reference for human rights and personal status, citizenship, dignity, and the free development of the individual. At the end of the first chapter, the focus is on the interpretation by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) concerning personal identity, which can be inferred as a person’s private life.

The second chapter addresses the method of mutual recognition of legal situations, with particular reference to the principle of mutual recognition in the European Union. While this is not the only solution for all the cases that may arise in the field of international family law, and it would be beneficial to broaden the scope to other solutions, the focus should not be solely on the method of mutual recognition.

The third chapter discusses personal status and its universal portability. It analyzes the jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) regarding the names of natural persons, gender identity, filiation (with an analysis of the ECHR’s case law), and marriage, particularly the concept of spouse.

In the fourth and final chapter, the book examines the path toward the free movement of people and families, offering a series of proposals to guarantee this right. It might have been more beneficial for the reader if this chapter had been more directly integrated into the previous chapters or addressed more concisely. This is followed by an epilogue that presents the conclusions of the work.

The author has tackled a topic of enormous interest, successfully highlighting its relevance in the current context and in people's daily lives. What stands out most is that she has not only identified an original and crucial area of study but has made a great effort to systematize a complex field, allowing the reader to understand its multiple facets and its real impact.

The effort to systematize is particularly evident in how the author organizes and presents her analysis of the subject. Rather than simply presenting scattered ideas, she has created a structure that allows the topic to be approached from different angles. This organized approach not only facilitates the understanding of the subject but also its practical application, demonstrating a clear commitment to clarity and accessibility.

The originality of the topic is another noteworthy aspect of this work. The author has chosen a field of study that is not only innovative but also touches on fundamental issues in people's lives, such as their rights, mobility, or the intersection of the private and the public in a globalized world. In an era where international mobility and the recognition of legal situations are increasingly relevant for millions of families, her work provides a fresh and necessary perspective for understanding these challenges. It is a work of great importance in people's lives.

Furthermore, the book is set in a highly current context, as the political and social tensions surrounding the free movement of people and the protection of human rights have gained significant importance on the international agenda. This contemporary approach makes the book not only useful for specialists in the field but also for a broader audience facing these dilemmas in their daily lives, such as migrants, transnational families, or legal professionals in general.

In summary, the author's effort to systematize an original, timely, and deeply important topic is a commendable achievement. Her ability to clearly and coherently organize complex issues and her focus on topics that directly affect people's lives make this book a valuable contribution to the field of law, specifically in private international law and human rights in an international context. The book's concluding sentence, with which those of us who work in private international law strongly identify, emphasizes that achieving the goals set out can be accomplished through this discipline. It reflects a sentiment shared by many of us in the field of private international law. Without a doubt, private international law, as demonstrated in this work, promotes the happiness and well-being of individuals. Any legal scholar aspiring to fully understand the principle of mutual recognition is practically obliged to read this work.

Isabel LORENTE MARTÍNEZ

Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED)