

## Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/coupled-om-and-the-law-what-next-after-equal-civil-partnership/>

This video discusses the ongoing debate in England and Wales regarding family law protections for non-traditional couples, particularly cohabiting and same-sex couples. Historically, the legal system has favored married couples and provided them with substantial protections under family law, while cohabiting couples have been left largely unprotected in the event of relationship breakdowns.

Despite social acceptance of cohabitation—evidenced by the fact that 3.5 million couples live together without marriage—these couples typically do not receive the same legal remedies as those who are married or in civil partnerships. The narrative indicates that many people mistakenly believe in "common law marriage," thinking cohabitation offers similar rights to marriage, unaware that this legal concept was abolished in 1753.

This video emphasizes that family law aims to protect economically vulnerable members of a family, predominantly children and partners with reduced earning potential due to caretaking roles. Co-habitants face a stark reality where property law governs their financial rights following a relationship breakdown, often leading to unfair outcomes, particularly for those who may have sacrificed their careers for family responsibilities.

Calls for reform argue that the law should recognize the functional similarities between cohabiting and married couples, suggesting that legal protections need to encompass all family forms to ensure that children and economically disadvantaged partners are not left vulnerable. The author advocates for legal changes to address the disparities in protections and to create mechanisms that acknowledge the contributions of non-financial caretakers. Overall, a responsive legal framework is deemed necessary to ensure fair treatment for all family structures and their financial stability upon separation or bereavement.