

Solidarity in Ageing Societies. A Philosophical Overview

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Abstract: This contribution aims to provide philosophical support for social sciences and policies to address the problem of ageing populations in relation to social cohesion and solidarity. This is achieved through a basic conceptual analysis of the value of solidarity and how it can be a guiding principle in managing ageing society issues. It also requires a very general mapping of the various societal levels involved in an ageing population, engaging with the problem of intergenerational solidarity. The scope of this paper is thus to provide a preliminary overview of approaching solidarity in ageing societies and deliver a justification for intergenerational solidarity. A key aspect is to clarify the relationship between intergenerational solidarity and intergenerational justice. The normative background of the latter purpose is the conception of solidarity as a social duty and collective response based on the recognition of ethical interdependence – in this case between generations.

Keywords: Solidarity, Ageing society, Justice, Intergenerational solidarity.

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