

Filantropia e beni essenziali

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Philanthropy and Essential Goods

Abstract: This essay argues that philanthropy cannot constitute a legitimate and permanent mode of distributing essential goods—namely, the fundamental goods required to lead an autonomous life. While philanthropy may be *pro tanto* justifiable in emergency or institutionally deficient contexts, it fails to meet the criteria for full justification, since its discretionary character undermines popular sovereignty over such goods and thereby erodes relational equality and reciprocal accountability among citizens. The essay advances a normative model of popular sovereignty over essential goods, according to which their allocation must occur through collective, inclusive, and publicly contestable procedures. The persistence of philanthropy in this domain should therefore not be understood as a desirable solution, but rather as the symptom of an institutional failure that calls for a profound democratic transformation.

Keywords: Philanthropy, Essential goods, Justification, Distributive justice.

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