

M14 Leading idea “Solidarity”

In a cosmopolitan society, human relationships offer a significant starting point to develop a new interpretation of reality. Together with empathy and imagination, solidarity is an important element that reinforces relationships. Is solidarity an instinctive or a rational act? Does solidarity arise from an instinct related to us as human beings? Does it come from a deliberate reflection on what we should do in a specific circumstance?

Indeed, solidarity is when we understand ourselves (and experience ourselves) as part of a larger whole. It involves seeing ourselves as an extension of others and sharing our living space with the people that surround us so that what happens to them involves (implicates) us.

In this sense, solidarity is like a geometrical body: every part of the body is necessary to the whole. If just one side of the geometrical body falls down, the whole body collapses. In this way, every single part of the whole is interested in the survival of the other parts.

The question is whether solidarity concerns only closed groups of human beings who defend themselves against others (for example, think of the working class) or whether solidarity can exist in the name of a more general concept, such as equality. However, sometimes people who carry out an act of solidarity seem to disregard their own interest and are willing to jeopardize their own life or defy the law for the sake of an Other. Consider the example of people who have put their lives in danger when violating the laws and norms of their own country in order to save persecuted people.



This project has been funded with support from the European Union. The author exclusively is responsible for the publication content. The publication does not reflect the views of the European Commission and the European Commission is not responsible for usage of the data contained therein.



© 2018-2019 eduskills.plus

URL: https://eduskills.plus/modules/living_together/democracy