

Activity 2: Ethical Dilemmas and Ethical Lenses

1) Questions to consider:

- What are the most significant contemporary ethical challenges/ethical dilemmas confronting society writ-large or people working in their fields.
- What makes these challenges or dilemmas *ethical*?
- Who is involved and whose interests are at stake?
- What ethical lenses might be helpful in illuminating the core ethical issue at stake in each of these?

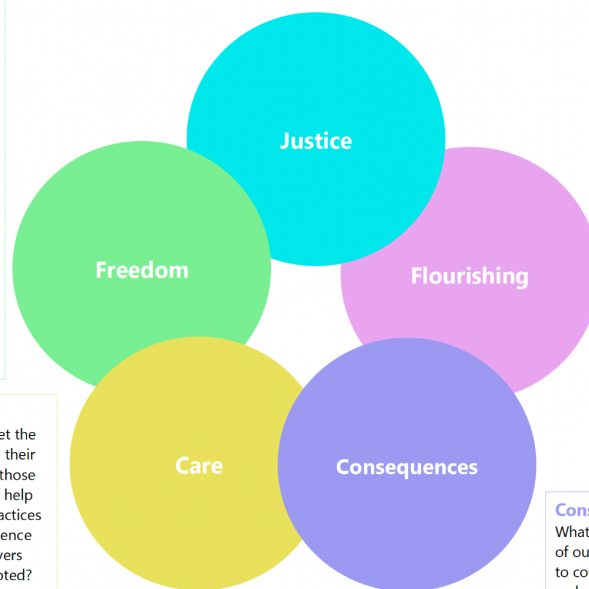
Freedom:

Negative Freedom (Liberty): Are agents able to do as they see fit without undue interference from others? Do our practices protect individual rights (e.g. private property, bodily integrity)?

Positive Freedom (Autonomy): Are agents able to choose how to live their lives? Are they able to 'form, revise, and pursue' their own conceptions of the good, projects, and values? Are groups and communities able to govern themselves and have meaningful control over their norms and practices?

Care:

Do our practices and relations meet the needs of those involved and make their world habitable? Do they provide those who are vulnerable and in need of help with good quality care? Do our practices create healthy relations of dependence in which the well-being of care-givers and care-receivers are both promoted? Are the responsibilities and labors of care fairly distributed in our communities?



Justice:

Procedural Justice: Do our rules treat all agents fairly? Are anyone's interests, needs, or values prioritized over others' in our decision-making?

Substantive Justice: Do our activities disproportionately affect (positively or negatively) one group or individual over others in an unjustified manner? Do our practices place an agent or group at a systematic advantage or disadvantage (e.g. by reproducing structural injustice)?

Flourishing:

Do agents have a real opportunity to live a *good life* – meaning the resources and conditions to develop and exercise their powers and capacities? Are agents part of communities that afford them meaningful relationships, dignity, and control over their lives? Do our practices provide agents with an adequate education to develop their reasoning capacities, virtues, and self-respect?

Consequences:

What are the long- and short-term benefits and harms of our actions? Do our practices successfully enable us to cooperate and meet our goals? Do our practices make optimal use of our resources? Is there a way to rearrange our practices to make more of what we have – be more productive, cost-efficient, etc.?