**2991 Aberdeen Elder abuse and allocation of scarce resources**

**RESPONSES TO REVIEWERS**

Attached is a slightly revised version of the original paper taking into account your word limit of 5000 words. Please note that I have had problems with the editing - the compatibility with WORD from rtf- and have used Underlining rather than red print to signal changes. The insertion re the Vatican document in Refrence no. 12 is not underlined.

With respect to the reviewers comments, I learnt quite a lot, though at times I felt that the aim of the paper was not understood.

**Reviewer 1**

I thank him/her for the encouragement to work on these ideas of inherent human dignity, solidarity and elder care for greater public awareness

- I am especially gateful for the texts of further reading provided in  notes 1 and 5

- I will look into intrinsic dignity from religious perspectives in  world religions as suggested to make the topic more inclusive on the global level.

**Reviewer 2**

I thank this reviewer for the suggested readings especially on relational autonomy that will no doubt supplement my reading on what we mean by recognising the autonomuy of the elderly person.

-The opening remarks of this reviewer with respect to par. 4 and 5 are explained in the following paragraphs of the section as the widely varying interpretations of human rights in named countries.

- The other comments point to a paper much longer than what I have submitted. The point on enlarging the underlying reasons and structures which cause social isolation were included in the original paper I had written and I believe that can become  the subject of a new paper.

**Reviewer 3**

The suggestion of this reviewer that the paper is too broadly focused and that  a short paper dealing with CST and its conceptions of dignity is more meaningful is well taken. Indeed I had begun making notes for a paper on this aspect of CST with my topic.

- Much of the criticism in points 4, 5, and 6 is taken care of in the original longer paper. I recast the sentence of the family 'in all its  sociological manifestations' as on reflection the phrase  can lead to a lack of clarity.

- I am working on getting more familiar with the legal aspect of dignity and will be comparing it with that of philosophy and theology. When that is done I will recast the argument where elder persons are concerned with respect to abuse and allocation of scarce resources. Of course that too will be a new paper

- I envisage the criticism in note 7 will be rectified when the future research mentioned above is completed. I have come to see the role of law as a determinant of health/life for the elderly but I am also aware that law and morals are not the same thing..