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The Stigma of Homelessness as an Identity: Homelessness as a Gendered Condition

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Goal:
To articulate the problems of homelessness using a gendered lens. This is necessary because of the stereotypes and stigmas surrounding homelessness. I use the work of Eva Kittay, a feminist philosopher, to explore the problem of homelessness.

Human Interconnectedness
It focuses on the ties that all humans have with one another. Interconnectedness links us together and must be explored when examining societal problems. Whether we choose to acknowledge it or not, individuals are impacted by the decisions of other individuals. We can use our efforts to help or hinder others.

Oppression
This concept becomes relevant in a discussion of societal problems because it recognizes how individuals and groups are impacted by norms, stereotypes and stigmas. Iris Marion Young defines five faces of oppression. I explore how the marginalization in particular affects those experiencing homelessness.

Citizenship
Addressing citizenship concerns shows the importance of identity in a specific place. Citizenship allows or prevents equality and can be contemplated at many levels. Persons experiencing homelessness may be defined as a citizen at the legal level, but their treatment or banishment challenges their rights as citizens.

Dependency
Vulnerability
Connection-Based Equality
Self-Perceptions
Moral Responsibilities