

Responding to Global Poverty

The extent and severity of global poverty are among the most profoundly disturbing aspects of our world, but it is one thing to recognize the problem and another to establish who, if anyone, is responsible for doing something about it and what they might sensibly do. Christian Barry and Gerhard Øverland explore well-established philosophical arguments for the moral responsibility of affluent individuals in the developed world to address poverty abroad. They explore the bases of claims such as that the affluent are killing the poor abroad through trade policies, or that the affluent can easily assist the poor by contributing to NGOs or state-administered aid programmes. They also consider not only what the affluent ought to do for the poor but also what the poor can do if the affluent fail in their responsibilities. Their book will appeal to readers in ethics, political philosophy and public policy.

Christian Barry is Professor of Philosophy at the Australian National University. His publications include (with Sanjay Reddy) *International Trade and Labor Standards: A Proposal for Linkage* (2008) and many journal articles.

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Responding to Global Poverty

Harm, Responsibility, and Agency

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Preface

We've had a lot of help in writing this book. Its chapters were discussed at seminars at the Australian National University (ANU), University of Melbourne, Charles Sturt University, University of Adelaide, University of Queensland, the Australasian Association for Philosophy, University of Oslo, New York University, City University of New York, The New School University, Rutgers University, the American Philosophical Association (Pacific Division), Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, University of Frankfurt, Humboldt University, University of Brasilia, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, University of Sao Paulo, University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin. We are grateful to those institutions for the opportunity to present our work in progress and to the audiences for all the good questions they put to us.

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CHRISTIAN BARRY