Should we give money to the homeless?

1. It is not uncommon to see people sleeping rough in towns and cities across the world. Many of them also approach passers-by and ask for money. 2. Should we be giving them money, or is there another way to help? 3. In this essay, I will explore the advantages and disadvantages of giving cash to the homeless on our streets.

4. Although many organizations advise against giving money to those begging, others think there are advantages in doing so. 5. For some homeless people, receiving money this way can be the difference between finding warmth and safety for the night, or sleeping outside in all weathers. 6. In addition, unlike donating to charity, you know that your money has gone straight into the hands of someone who needs it. 7. Many of the homeless on our streets already feel forgotten by society, therefore the simple act of a stranger giving a little money can really help them to feel better sometimes. 8. The giver will feel good for helping someone in need as well.

9. However, others argue that most of the money given will be spent on unhealthy habits, and not on basic needs. 10. They worry that a kind gift might lead an increase in problems for the recipient, because they can afford to buy addictive substances. 11. Another disadvantage given by homeless charities is the difficulty homeless people have in escaping the cycle of begging and sleeping rough. 12. Consequently, if people give money to those begging, it might prevent them from accepting other help which could provide a longer-term solution. 13. These charities suggest that people who want to help can do so by donating to homeless organizations, chatting to the homeless person on the street instead of walking straight past, or volunteering.

14. In summary, whether or not to give money to the homeless is a personal decision. 15. Moreover no one should feel guilty for either choosing to give or not as there are arguments on both sides. 16. However, homelessness is a serious problem which we should all be looking to find solutions for.

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