

Summary

“Menschenrechte und Grundbedürfnisse“

by Peter Schaber

Some authors think that human rights are all about protecting human needs. According to them, human needs are not just the objects of human rights but also what the rights we have as human beings are grounded in. This is the view which is discussed in this paper. It is argued that despite the fact that some human needs are protected by human rights, they are not what human rights are based upon. Human rights - at least the core human rights - protect the normative authority of persons. The normative authority also provides us - it is argued - with reasons to ascribe core human rights. Persons have a right to control essential aspects of their life as well as a right to exercise this right. And this is what the core human rights at least are all about.