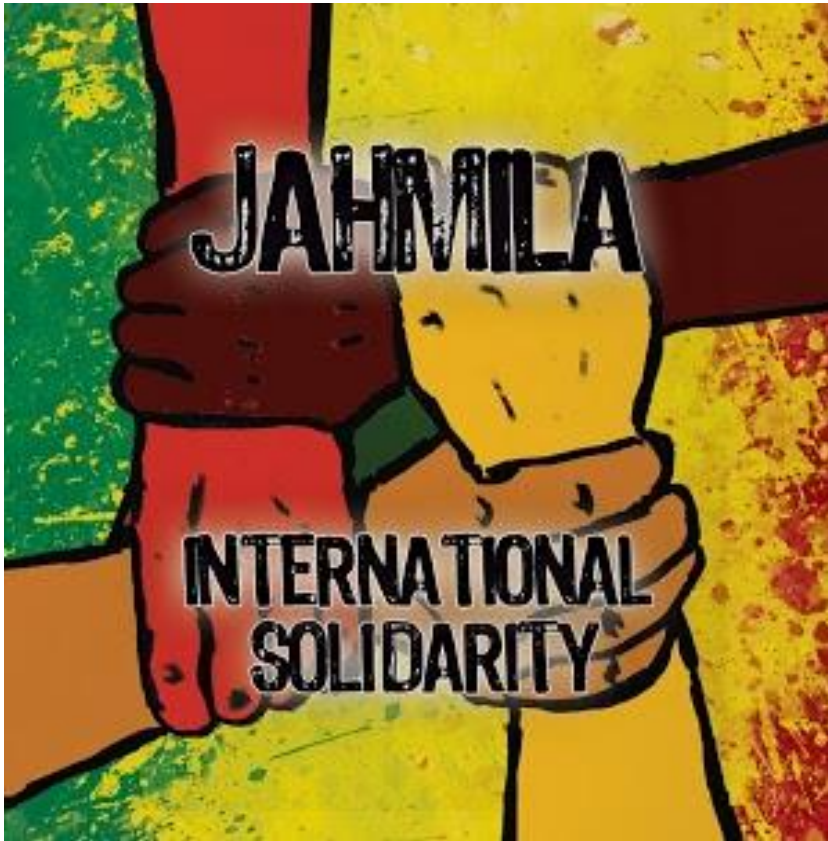


# Charity – Solidarity. What's the Difference?



# Definitions of Charity

## Cambridge Dictionary

charity *noun* (GIVING)

a system of giving money, food, or help free to those who are in need because they are ill, poor, or have no home, or any organization that has the purpose of providing money or helping in this way

## Oxford Living Dictionary

Charity NOUN

**1**An organization set up to provide help and raise money for those in need.

*‘the charity provides practical help for homeless people’*

**2***mass noun* The voluntary giving of help, typically in the form of money, to those in need.

*‘the care of the poor must not be left to private charity’*

# Definitions of Solidarity

## Cambridge

Solidarity *noun*

agreement between and support for the members of a group especially a political group

## Oxford Living Dictionary

Solidarity **NOUN**

unity (as of a group or class) that produces or is based on community of interests, objectives, and standards

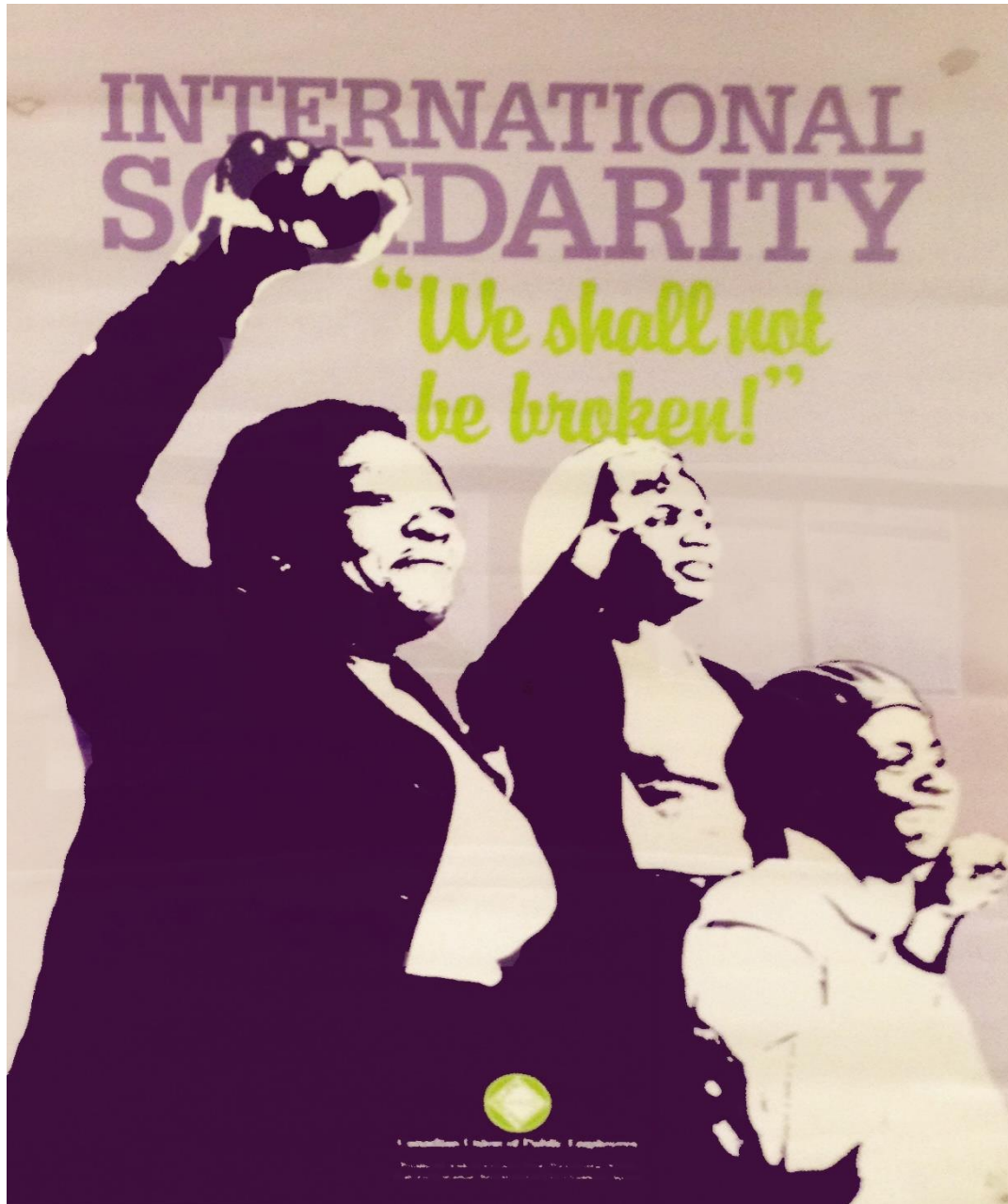
## Solidarity vs. Charity

- ... An essential component to this discussion is the critical examination of the difference between **charity** work, **which tends to keep our system in place** and **solidarity** work, **which focuses on systemic change**

Tim Wise suggests looking critically at the following three criteria to ascertain the difference between charity work and solidarity work:

- ***Who creates the problem?*** Charity work is often based on the premise that marginalized people have some sort of deficit. Those who work in solidarity, on the other hand, understand that conditions of inequity are created by the dominant culture.
- ***Who holds the knowledge?*** Charity work flows from the premise that the giver has the expertise to decide both what the community needs and how to provide it. Solidarity work, however, assumes that the recipient community is in the best place to determine its own needs, and they have the right to determine how and when and if a service will be provided and by whom.
- ***Where is the accountability?*** Charity work turns accountability inward so that the organizations providing services are ultimately only accountable to themselves and their funders. Yet, solidarity work turns accountability outward so that served populations decide whether or not the work is beneficial.

<https://www.classism.org/charity-or-solidarity/>



**The intertwining of causes of people and organizations in different countries, who are struggling for social justice**