**Student 1 post**:

Disasters expose the homeless to considerable challenges. If I were homeless, I would accept aid since opposing it would deprive me of better health services and basic needs such as food and shelter.  The homeless have unique needs that should be incorporated in every stage of planning for an emergency. Disasters make it difficult for the homeless to be evacuated as they are not even aware of impending disasters so they can prepare (Sundareswaran et al., 2015). The social services are usually not forthcoming, and they are left to suffer due to traumatic conditions, less or no sleep, increased violence, and mental illnesses.

Disasters make it challenging to evacuate the homeless and they end up separating with families, lacking food, shelter, and transportation along with physical injuries. The acceptance of aid eradicates all these problems and guarantees the homeless access to social services that relieve them of traumatic conditions (Paidakaki, 2012). The homeless can also reunite with their families when aid is available since they can easily plan how to prepare before disaster strikes.

Social services encompass creating an interactive environment with disaster response teams, which is a remedy to traumatic conditions and ensures access to healthcare services (Sundareswaran et al., 2015). The homeless are highly susceptible to sexual and physical abuse, which is likely to escalate during a disaster and opposing aid worsens the situation. Further, accepting aid enables disaster response personnel to evacuate and ensure access to counseling services.

**References**

Paidakaki, A. (2012). Addressing Homelessness through Disaster Discourses: The Role of Social Capital and Innovation in Building Urban Resilience and Addressing Homelessness. European Journal of Homelessness, 6(2), 137-148.

Sundareswaran, M., Ghazzawi, A., & O'Sullivan, T. L. (2015). Upstream Disaster Management to Support People Experiencing Homelessness. PLoS currents, 7.

**Student 2 post:**

In my opinion, I see the homeless or incarcerated people as extremely vulnerable individuals. People become homeless because of several reasons. Some of them include the inability to pay rent or keep up with mortgage payments, domestic violence, mental illness, and the failure to pay medical bills. Homeless people and incarcerated individuals are often shunned by society, with the former ending up living on the streets and the latter possibly ending up being discriminated against because of their criminal backgrounds (Bethel, Foreman & Burke, 2011). Both groups do not have access to necessary supplies and are unable to exercise autonomy or give consent on matters that directly affect them. Imagining myself as either homeless or incarcerated, I would accept to receive aid during a disaster. I know that I would be in a difficult situation trying to fend for myself because of my circumstance, and the occurrence of the accident would have made my condition worse. Vulnerable populations, such as incarcerated or homeless individuals, need all the help they can get.

**Reference**

Bethel, J. W., Foreman, A. N., & Burke, S. C. (2011). Disaster preparedness among medically vulnerable populations. American journal of preventive medicine, 40(2), 139-143.