

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 250
Submitted by: Julie Borger
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Position: I/We do not support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Other
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I am fearful of where we are heading as a society when we so readily take the life of another. The legalising of the killing of the vulnerable unborn child in the womb is criminal but so also is the legalised killing of those nearing the natural completion of their physical life.

We grow in our humanity and generosity of spirit when we lay down our lives for another by caring for them in their hour of need. Every effort should be made to research and hone our ability to provide a painfree and peaceful ending to those who are dying. In those few instances when we have failed to do this and have witnessed a loved one experience pain and fear in their ending this should not be taken as a justification to legalise euthanasia but should cause us to learn more, invest more and ensure that greater and more effective care be given to patients in the future.

Research into the practices of Euthanasia in the Netherlands and in Belgium have demonstrated the slippery slope. Where first euthanasia might be introduced only for those with terminal illnesses who, while still able to make clear decisions, elect to be euthanised, before long doctors seek permission from family members rather than the patient to decide to prematurely end a patient's life. Some doctors in Belgium have even taken it upon themselves to choose that a patient would best be served by having a lethal dose administered. This slippery slope has also extended the eligibility criteria so that in Belgium now a simple bout of depression can be a cause for a patient to end his or her own life and even the young person can choose to be euthanised. (see Bill Meulenberg's well researched book on the practices of Euthanasia in the Netherlands, Belgium and Canada "the Challenge of Euthanasia").

Our culture is diminished when we fail to respect the right to life for all and so then fail to invest our finances, our time and our energy into caring for one another and assisting one another to live their life to the fullest. To legalise euthanasia is to legitimate selfishness and a culture that dis-regards the worth of human life. Please let us not go there.

Thankyou