End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Anonymous

I am very concerned about the proposals in the above mentioned bill.

Living in a country which already has good arrangements for the terminally ill, we still seem to be unable to be content with this and increasing numbers of people appear to feel the need to move from caring compassionately for terminally ill patients to actually taking steps to end their lives.

I was recently involved with the care of my late father-in-law and we were able to keep him at home with the help of specialised equipment and excellent nursing care. All through this time, we were able to keep him comfortable, safe and in a familiar environment. In the final days of his life, he became unable to respond to us but could be clearly seen to be in pain and it was at this time that we agreed to a morphine server syringe to deal with that pain. We fully realised that this would shorten his life but, as he was terminally ill, our overriding concern was to keep him comfortable until death.

This is called compassion and is already available in our country. To make a decision to effectively end his life is another matter entirely and not one which is either necessary or desirable. The facility to remove life-sustaining treatment is also already available and appropriate when life becomes intolerable for the patient and there is no hope of recovery.

Please do not consider changing the law on this matter. We do not have the right to take another person's life just because either they or we do not want them to live any longer. We know we cannot prevent suicide but to legalise assisted suicide is in effect to legalise murder, regardless of whether or not the person concerned agreed to it.

Why do we always have to push the boundaries? Some boundaries are already set at where a civilised society should stop and this is one such case.

Anonymous
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