End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Kathleen Yule

I am writing to record my opposition to the ELA Bill. Life is sacred and taking a life has always rightly been viewed with the utmost gravity. As this bill stands, this principle will no longer apply, though its demise would be cloaked in apparent compassion. This bill is supposedly intended to 'enable a person to die with dignity and a minimum of distress' - surely that is what palliative medicine seeks to provide and without the spectre of an untimely end, however 'compassionate' it may seem?

If this bill were to be passed, how can abuses be prevented? Evidence from countries/states where this 'facility' already exists show abuses cannot be prevented.

If this bill were to become law, medical doctors would be unable to refuse to be part of an assisted suicide as there is no 'conscience clause'. How can people who have sworn to preserve life be forced to terminate it at the behest of a piece of unjustifiable legislation?

I urge the Committee to look at all the facts and ethical issues surrounding this emotive subject, and to reject the current Bill which cannot be justified in any way in its present form.

Kathleen Yule

23/04/2010