End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Evina Campbell

I write to express my concerns about the above proposed Bill. I have looked at it from the viewpoint of a citizen of Scotland and how, if it is passed, it will affect me. I list below the reasons why I do not wish the ELA (Scotland) Bill to become law.

1. Misleading language of title of Bill. It is called “End of Life Assistance” but when put into plain English it means “Rules and Regulations for Killing People”. The veiled language of the title makes it more acceptable to society and to those who do not bother to think through the wording for themselves. If the bill was entitled “Rules and Regulations for Killing People” I believe that the public would not be so willing to go along with it. This Bill is about killing people legally.

2. Human instinct is to preserve life. Killing people goes against our natural instincts. We are born with an instinct to preserve and protect our lives. We also have an instinct to preserve the lives of others. In cases of emergency, we automatically do all we can to save the lives of others. This shows how precious our lives are to us. The sadness and sorrow that illness and accident brings to people also shows us how precious life is because these situations bring us face to face with possible death.

3. Possibility of this Bill being amended later to be widened in its scope. If this bill is passed I will not be surprised if, sooner or later, it will be amended to become more widely available, just as has happened with the 1967 Abortion Act. That Act has been amended down through the years and is now legal for far more reasons that the original Act permitted.

4. Guilt of people who will implement the ELA Bill. I believe that many people who will give permission for their family members to be put to death legally, will suffer guilt afterwards, in the same way as the many women who have had abortions feel guilt when they realise what they have done, albeit legally. Often their reaction is to replace their loss by becoming pregnant again. In the case of the ELA Bill this will generally not be an option. I can even foresee yet another support agency being set up, just as has happened with the Abortion Act, to counsel people who suffer from the guilt of having had their loved ones put to death.

Indeed, their guilt will be even keener because the person killed is likely to be someone with whom they lived for a long time and with whom they were intimate, unlike those women who have abortions.

5. Personal fear of becoming a victim of the ELA Bill. If this Bill is passed I know that I will have a personal fear about what will happen to
me at the end of my days. I do not know, thank God, how or when I am going to die, but if this bill is passed before then, and society is killing people legally, what is to stop my family implementing this law and killing me? The very thought of it shows me how much I cherish my life and why I am against this Bill going onto our statute books.

I would respectfully ask you to address the same question to yourself.

6. Safeguarding my own life. If this Bill is passed, I intend, while I am fit and well, to get my family to promise me faithfully that they will never ever consider using this Bill to kill me.

It is wrong for the Scottish Parliament to put the people of Scotland into this situation.

I hope that the foregoing will assist you as you draw up the ELA Bill and that I have conveyed to you that I am against this bill becoming law in Scotland.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Evina Campbell

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