End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Dolina Thomson

I feel very concerned with regards to the above bill. My main concern is the message that this bill sends out to individuals. It says that your life is worthless and you can add nothing to society because you are terminally ill or dependent on others. My experience of someone in this condition is quite the opposite.

My gran lived with crippling rheumatoid arthritis for 50 years. She spent a number of periods over the years on morphine to help her endure the constant pain she was in. She was very opposed to euthanasia and assisted suicide. She added so much to our lives despite being housebound and eventually bedridden. My gran was perhaps one of the strongest influences on the lives of 3 generations of our family and the many people who knew her, yet she struggled to lift a cup to her lips.

I believe that we need to send out a new message in society and that this bill is not it. We need to look at our hospice, palliative and respite care to help people realise their potential and to enable them not to feel that they are a burden to their families. We want to rebuild society to make people responsible for the weak and vulnerable, rather than simply removing them from the society.

To my mind, this bill fails to have proper safe guards in place. Rather than giving people dignity it tells them they are valueless in today’s society. It may lead to a situation where people feel obliged to end their life. This is not the sort of society I hope to grow old in, or bring my children up in.

Dolina Thomson
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