End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Rev Tony Schmitz

1. Do you agree a person should be able to request end of life assistance from a registered medical practitioner?
   Absolutely not. This would be an invitation to go against the Hippocratic oath and all it stands for.

2. Are you satisfied with the requirements for age and connection with Scotland as set out in the Bill?
   No.

3. Are you satisfied with the two categories of people who would qualify to be assisted under the terms of the Bill?
   No.

4. The Bill outlines a several stage consent and verification process that would be required to be followed for an eligible person to receive end of life assistance. Are you satisfied with this process?
   Even if one agreed with the provisions of this Bill, the time span is disgracefully brief. Experience shows that it often takes longer than 3 months to get over a crisis,

5. Do you consider the level and nature of safeguards as set out in the Bill to be appropriate? They are nightmarish in their inadequacy. All happens in private and there would seem little possibility of checking whether anything illegal was being carried out.

6. Do you have any other considerations on the Bill not included in answers to the above questions?
   Experience shows how very rapidly voluntary euthanasia, which is what we are talking about if we avoid euphemisms, becomes involuntary.

   It would appear that nothing in this bill prevents the setting up of private arrangements in private practice of unscrupulous doctors and psychiatrists who know nothing of the medical or family history of their “clients” as has happened abroad.

   It would seem to require doctors to become themselves investigators if they are to come to a judgment on “undue influence” or to engage lawyers into investigating who might gain from the death/killing in order to protect themselves from subsequent legal action.
It perverts the purposes of the medical profession. One implication is that future generations of medical students will have to be taught how best to kill patients once this Rubicon is crossed.

Rev Tony Schmitz
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