End of Life (Scotland) Bill

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Often clouded by pseudonyms like a ‘dignified death’, assisted suicide has many advocates. In essence, it is giving people the right to die as and when they deem correct and timely. Here are just some of the reasons why assisted dying should never be legalised.

- Allowing someone to die is to give up on them when they need care, love and acceptance the most. It is a mark of disrespect and hopelessness for human life.

- The right to die becomes a duty to die once society accepts that some lives are less worthy than others and so some people are better off dead. The sick and elderly will feel pressurised into thinking they are burdensome.

- Vulnerable and depressed people face high risks of qualifying for assisted suicides. Their lives are as meaningful as yours and mine. The only difference is they need someone to show and tell them that. They need help, not abandonment.

- Writing the law and enforcing the law are two completely different accomplishments. Safeguards in countries which allow assisted dying have failed in the past. The absence of detection of abuse does not mean the absence of abuse.

- With the world experiencing financial strife, assisted deaths seem to be the cost effective way out as compared to treatment and palliative care. But is it the humane way out?

- Killing someone on request if made legal will keep doctors out of prison for doing so. But what about having to live with it for the rest of your life? It is not fair to ask doctors to help you to die when their profession is all about healing and preserving.

The battle is not restricted to a committee, country or continent. There are definitely more vulnerable people who need protection than the number of people desperate to die. Personal experience might provoke emotions and gut feelings to rule the mind but we have to think about the countless vulnerable people who demand humanity to act for their protection and preservation till the very end.

The real dignity lies in assisting people to live and find meaning when they feel beaten and desolate. There is no dignity in going down the dark, dangerous and irreversible route of assisting them to die.

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