I write to you as I do feel very concerned about the ELA Bill. I feel that although it is proposed by well intentioned people who are concerned for the suffering of others and desire to intervene and help, it would also create situations that are very far from the original intentions. If assisted suicide were to be offered to people who are in some degree dependent on others:

- Could this include those with some disability that was not threatening?
- Vulnerable and the old could be very much at risk.
- Where would be our natural instinct to care for the elderly, who have at one time done everything for us?

This seems to be breeding an attitude of - if it's not convenient don't do it. Convenience before love. Who is to decide when a life has value or worth?

What does it mean to find life "intolerable"? To be surrounded by loving care would go a long way to alleviate that, and who is to decide what is "intolerable" for someone else?

We hear about people being allowed to "die with dignity." Lets put all our efforts and more resources into palliative care. The Hospice Movement do wonderful work and need NHS cover to continue this wonderful and dedicated service. There are also many who choose to die a home where local GP's, District Nurses, Macmillan Nurses, Marie Curie Nurses and the family can all be part of a wonderful team. My Mother died of cancer at home, and although it was a time when I was very tired, I would never have wanted it any other way. It was an enriching experience for all the family including her grandchildren. She died surrounded by those she loved and received loving care. When the time comes for Margo MacDonald that will be all she will need whether with her family or with loving professionals, she wont be a burden. Naturally I understand that circumstances don't always allow family to have dying relatives at home, but that is only all the more reason for assisting the hospices.

Is it not true that in countries that allow assisted suicide there is also admission that abuses occur?

I would ask that this Bill definitely be rejected.

Rosemarie Shairp
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