End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

David S Alford

It is my wholehearted desire that assisted suicide remains illegal in our land.

The effect on the well being and care of those with a terminal or debilitating condition I think will be greatly detrimental. There will, I believe, be a change of expectation and commitment to care. The question will be raised, at least in some minds, “if things are so bad for you, why don’t you just ask for the pills”.

Medical care, palliative and otherwise is improving all the time. The focus should be a commitment to helping people live with dignity rather than the inevitable pressure to end it all.

It is shameful to involve others in this act – it is our right to refuse medical treatment if we don’t want to live any longer but we should not shift the responsibility onto a Doctor or Nurse whose oath is to protect life.

The British Medical Association do not support assisted suicide, their members should not have the responsibility contrary to their calling.

There would inevitably be a shift in attitude from medical staff – why should they work hard physically and emotionally to return a patient to health only to have them ask for assistance in dying later on. This would be demoralizing and would without doubt reflect in the level of care and commitment to the individual patient.

In some cases there would be pressure applied to people, least able to resist, to request assistance to die – for the sake of the family, the hospital staff, others who need medical care.

We have seen the path that legalization of abortion has taken – introduced on the heartrending cases – rape, severe disability, social deprivation. We now have abortion on demand. In some cases used as contraceptive, encouraged by social work, a choice if it would interfere with education, work, ambition… I anticipate a similar shift from cases which are hard to argue against to injection on demand.

Many people at a low point in their life experience depression and are convinced that there is no point in going on but come through it and are glad they did.

There are spiritual responsibilities we need to address as we move from this life to the next.
(anyone who doubts that there is more to life than the physical world should read up on ‘out of body’ experiences). The deliberate taking of life may interfere with this process.
The time of our death is appointed by One with much more wisdom than we possess.
Please maintain the sanctity of life.

Please oppose the legalization of assisted suicide.

David S Alford
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