End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Gerald Cunningham

I feel it is my duty to outline my grave concerns regarding the End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill. The content of this Bill has been rigorously examined and it is clear that it would introduce euthanasia into our country. I urge the Scottish Parliament on behalf of and for the good of the whole population of Scotland, to reject it completely.

A society can be measured by the way in which it treats the weak and the vulnerable. The legalisation of euthanasia will send out a clear message to the sick, elderly and the vulnerable that their lives are somehow less valuable than those who are in good health and can live independent lives. It is clear that laws influence public opinion and over time, were euthanasia to be legal, it would be seen as an acceptable way in which to deal with those who require care from either their family members or the state. We need only look to Holland and see the large amounts of people that are euthanased involuntarily to be aware of the dangers of such a law.

As you are no doubt aware, the state has a positive obligation to protect the lives of its citizens, founded in Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Were the Scottish Government to endorse a policy that positively facilitates the deaths of its citizens, the state would grossly fail in its principal task.

It would a shambles were this Bill to be passed. It is a direct attack on the right to life of Scottish citizens. Also, on a more academic note, the Bill contains phrases so subjective, (‘finds life intolerable’), that it would simply be impossible for a court of law to verify objectively what criteria must be met before such conditions are fulfilled. Such poorly defined terms surely cannot become law.

PS I am sending copies of this letter to the individual members of your committee also.

Gerald Cunningham
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