End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Judith Thomson

I would like to thank you for allowing folk to express their feelings on the above Bill.

My feelings are very much against assisted suicide. The whole idea is anathema to me. Life is so very precious we should be so careful about letting this go.

Some years ago Cicely Saunders, founder of the modern hospice movement in Britain, told how she met the founder of the main euthanasia organisation in the UK and took him around one of the hospices. He said that if only everyone could have a chance of such love and care he would see no need for a euthanasia movement. I do feel we should be fighting for this care to be more generally available.

Perhaps 2 or 3 years ago I was listening to the Drive programme on Radio5 when they interviewed, (or spoke of), a French doctor who had gone to work in the Netherlands and seen something of their practices in the assistance of suicide. He had left because he felt there were pressures being put on folk to ask for suicide help, sometimes by their families.

We are encouraged these days, rightly I feel, to have self-worth; how sad that some may come to feel they are not worthy of life and a nuisance to others.

Margot Macdonald has a personal cause here and one should truly pray and have concern for her. I am just afraid the opening of this door will allow so many practices and attitudes to human life to come into our society.

Too many seem already to only value folk by what they can “give” society. Disabled organisations have to work against this I think. In a recent Guardian article a lady Rabbi mentioned how we work out who to allow to come in to Britain by this similar approach and do not think to help those in desperate need.

Thank you again for this chance to express ones thoughts on such a pressing matter.

Judith Thomson