End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Richard Alcock

I live just south of the border in Cumbria, but my doctors are at Newcastle on Roxbrough, Scotland. I also have three children settled in Scotland. So I am very interested in what goes on in Scotland regarding people in vulnerable situations.

I am completely against euthanasia, direct or assisted in any form whatsoever. It is a very dangerous path to go down as the safeguards will soon be eroded and before long it will be available on demand. Worse still old and ill depressed patients will feel they have a ‘duty’ to die as the ‘best thing to do for everybody’. The degeneration of the safeguards for the abortion bill proves this.

It also puts an intolerant burden on doctors whose Hippocratic Oath demands they preserve life. Is it intended that the doctors should be forced to kill or help to kill patients when it is against their consciences?

Q. Do you agree a person should be able to request end of life assistance from a registered medical practitioner?

A. I disagree. A person should never be able to request end of life assistance. We are not animals and far from being ‘dignified’, this is an affront to our dignity as human beings.

Q. Are you satisfied with the requirements for age and connection with Scotland as set out in the Bill?

A. No

Q. Are you satisfied with the two categories of people who would qualify to be assisted under the terms of the Bill?

A. No one should qualify for this barbaric Bill

Q. The Bill outlines a several stage consent and verification process that would be required to be followed for an eligible person to receive end of life assistance.

Are you satisfied with this process?

A. No. It would be all right to begin with but it will slowly degenerate over the years until full euthanasia will be available with minimal checks.
Q. Do you consider the level and nature of safeguards as set out in the Bill to be appropriate?

A. No. The safeguards will be eroded over time. It is very naive to think these safeguards could be maintained against the euthanasia lobby.

Q. Do you have any other considerations on the Bill not included in answers to the above questions?

A. To allow any sort of euthanasia at all is a very dangerous path to take because just as unborn children are considered as non persons and may be killed, so in time the old and feeble will be treated as an expensive burden on the community and will be put down like animals.

Please do not go down this very dangerous path. If we do, we will reap fearful consequences. If you do pass this Bill the rest of the UK will almost certainly follow. Westminster has had the tenacious aggressive pro euthanasia lobby try many times to introduce a similar Bill and it has always been defeated in the House of Lords. The problem is that these virulent minorities keep trying to introduce their own agendas while the uninformed and unsuspecting majority find laws passed that they really don't want. Also invariably these sorts of Bills are usually not thought through properly and all sorts of unexpected and undesirable results often happen.

No one has the right to take their own or another’s life. This would undermine our justice system and our right to life. We actually have few ‘rights’, but many responsibilities. This is the small end of the wedge. Once legislation is passed we will enter into something that cannot be reversed and can only progress.

“We experience good only by doing it.
We experience evil only by refusing to allow ourselves to do it, or if we do it, repenting of it.
When we do evil we do not know it, because evil flies from the light”
(Philosopher Simone Weil in ‘Gravity & Grace P. 71)

Food for thought?

We are not God but if we try to be him and usurp him we will certainly one day, whether we believe in him or not, have to explain ourselves before him. There is only one truth - for everyone.

It might be a good idea to try to find out what the truth is as we all only have one life.

Richard Alcock
11 May 2010