End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Mr W E Thomas

I am extremely concerned about the proposals put forward in the End of Life Assistance Bill (Scotland). I, amongst many other committed Christians deeply oppose the concept of this bill and its attack upon the value of human life. There are a number of points I would like to make for you to consider with regard to this bill.

If society accepts assisted suicide or euthanasia it means that some lives no longer have meaning value or worth.

The wording in the Bill is vague. For example there is no definition of what it is to find life ‘intolerable’ and the methods by which life would be terminated are not identified.

The Bill is intended to 'enable a person to die with dignity and a minimum of distress.' This is already provided through good health care and particularly palliative medicine.

The professional medical bodies and the British Medical Association do not support assisted suicide.

The scope of the Bill is unbelievably wide. It would offer assisted suicide to people who are to some degree dependent on others. This could include those with non-threatening disabilities and those with relatively common conditions who have a degree of dependency on others. Vulnerable and old people would be especially at risk.

Christians believe in the sanctity of all life, and in care at the end of life not killing. I urge the committee to fully consider all of the tragic implications and consequences of this proposed bill and not allow it to succeed in becoming law.

Mr W E Thomas
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