End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Hannah Milligan

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

No. As a medical student I have been taught to value and protect life, I did not sign up for this career to kill people. I think it is unfair to ask this of a medical practitioner.

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

I object to the whole Bill on the principle that it should not be legal for one person to kill another. The parameters of the Bill make no difference.

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

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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?

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Do you consider the level and nature of safeguards as set out in the Bill to be appropriate?

No. No legislation, no matter how detailed, can possibly protect all vulnerable people in practice.

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

I believe that killing people is immoral, and whether it is done under the label of compassion or not does not change this. Legalising euthanasia would be dangerous; giving doctors a power they should not hold or be expected to hold. I fear that with the passing of such a Bill, vulnerable older people will feel pressurised into euthanasia, not wanting to 'be a burden'. For those who are seriously ill and in pain there are excellent palliative care services which allow
people to die with dignity. We should be pouring more resources into these, rather than spending money on a Bill that is not needed nor wanted.

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