End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Anonymous

I would ask you to reject this bill. Often these bills are advocated for “difficult cases” but once the law is in place many cases are considered “appropriate”. I am proud to be Scottish but I would be deeply ashamed if our government made this law. We as a nation are called to protect and defend the weak and the vulnerable. Who has the right to say what value another person’s life is worth? A doctor, a relative, a lawyer, an MSP?

I have an elderly mum who is in a nursing home and has dementia. She means a great deal to me and I am grateful for all the sacrifices she made throughout her life for my sisters and me. She does not always recognise me, but it calls out a degree of self sacrifice to visit her regularly. It would be very easy for relatives to take the trouble-free option and push for assisted suicide saying it’s in the best interests of the elderly. If the elderly or ill person had money or property how easy then it would be to push for their death – “it was really the best thing for them”.

A friend of mine returned from a trip to China. There couples are only allowed to have one child. The result of this is that for over a generation children now have no brothers or sisters and no aunts or uncles. (every parent is a single child!) These laws have a high social cost and change the society of the nation which puts them in place. Their society is changing into a very utilitarian one; the value of the individual is being lost. In the 1930s in Germany, before the Nazis came to power, children in orphanages who had severe disabilities were killed by the medical staff. However in the end children with conditions such as cleft palates were killed. (The surprising end point of the utilitarian ethic) There is always a gradual widening of the categories included and allowed to be killed, when one person is given the authority to decide who has the right to live and who should die.

What will be the end point of this particular bill if it were to become law? As each of us gets older how safe will we be, if someone else has the right to decide if I should live or die?

I want to live in a country that values life and all generations especially those most vulnerable. This bill is not about the right to die but the right to kill- to kill the most vulnerable.

This bill is an erosion of our human rights, especially our most important right – the right to life. I would ask you to reconsider this bill and remove it.

Anonymous
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