I am writing to express my personal concern and unease about the proposed End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill that, if passed by the Scottish Parliament, it would inevitably begin the process of legalising assisted suicide and euthanasia in Scotland.

My concern is that if Scottish society accepts, in this way, the possibility of assisted suicide and euthanasia then, inevitably, the value of life – and worth of life – is diminished.

I note that a considerable number of consultants working with the Hospice movement have already written, via a public letter published in The Times, to oppose the aim of this Bill. As someone who has seen at firsthand the excellent work of a hospice at the time of the end of a life, I believe that promotion of the Hospice movement is both a safer and more productive approach.

I write, therefore, to urge the Committee not to encourage this Bill to proceed.

Peter M Humphris
5 May 2010