

Being an MSP means doing different things. One of their most serious duties is to decide laws which protect and uphold the rights of all citizens of Scotland. Few laws made during this parliament have the potential to change the lives of all people, as much as the Assisted Dying bill.

Right Use of Law?

This bill wishes to give the state legal power to assist in ending the lives of some of its' citizens. This would allow state employees to act in a way that has never been allowed before. Like most other countries, the law has always seen any attempt to intentionally end the life of another person as being wrong because everyone has the right to life.

The bill suggests that a small group of people with a terminal illness who are near the end of life, are an exception to current law. It promises that only this small group will be allowed state assisted Dying/Suicide in Scotland.

Making national laws which affect all people, to meet the needs of a small group, causes real problems as we shall see.

Learning from Other Countries...

Promises That Cannot Be Kept

Other countries that have done this, show us that such a decision makes a promise that cannot be kept. In these countries, campaigners argued in court that it was unfair to allow only some people the right to assisted Dying/Suicide. These governments were later forced to change the law and introduce assisted Dying/Suicide for others.

State assisted Dying/Suicide may begin as a promise of mercy for a few, but through time it leads to assisted suicide for many. To believe that safeguards could be successful in Scotland is to deny the reality that has happened in other countries.

Changes in the Care for All?

To make the taking of life legal, also causes a disturbing change that affects all people. State health officials who today offer care and support, would be allowed (even obliged at times) to advise some patients, that death is the best "treatment" for their situation because their life is no longer worth living.

**Should any state employees have the right to say this;
especially to a vulnerable person?**

Some might say it would never happen in Scotland. In 2019 more than 500 Dutch patients were given state assisted death due to their dementia or other psychiatric conditions.

To give state employees power to provide assisted suicide as a “treatment” for health/social conditions changes the security and care of all, especially the vulnerable. Merciful change in the law for the few, results in death as a treatment for the vulnerable, this is not equality.

Other countries show us that allowing the right to die changes the nature and practice of health care. Such change in Canada (eg where state assisted suicide is offered to people with dementia, sight or learning impairments etc...) led Professor Leonnie Herxx, of Ontario to warn us

“Administering death is cheaper and easier than providing care, and it will quickly become the solution for any forms of human suffering, as we have seen in Canada.”

Medical care cannot provide the perfect answer in many situations. Research, development and best practice are the normal leaders of change, not law change which alters the reality of care as we know it.

Expectations of the Legislators

The emotive nature of this issue demands much of our MSPs as legislators. Whatever way they vote we hope and expect them to

- Rise above the influence of personal opinion-polls, or party ambition
- Be respectful of the feelings of all but decide based on facts
- Make a decision that will be for the good of all
- Leave a legacy of increased care

Promise and Pledge

As a group we promise that we will inform constituents of

The information given to each of their MSPs

The decision made by each MSP, and the reasons given

We promise to repeat this at the next available election campaign.

To find out more information log on to carenotkilling.scot

For CAAD advice contact Brian 07947497797 or Noel assisthelp04@gmail.com