

Assisted Dying 2023: Do Not Be Deceived

.....Flyer 3

Professor Leonie Herxx is a world-famous expert in Palliative Medicine from Canada. When she visited Scotland in 2023 she said “Do not be deceived”. Let’s explore what she meant.

Introducing Assisted Dying: Canada Experience

Just like Scotland today, Canadians were led to believe that state assisted Dying/Suicide would only be allowed for small numbers of people approaching death, in intolerable pain. In 2016 the Canadian parliament passed a law for this small group. Within 5 years, state assisted dying is now the cause of more than 3% of Canadian deaths, and rising. How did this happen?

Campaigners for assisted dying in Canada learned from the experiences of other places where euthanasia is now legal. They knew that if it was made law for a small group of people, the principle was accepted. Later this could be used as a stepping stone to allow others to obtain euthanasia.

This happened when a judge decided that the law was unfair to others who wanted euthanasia. In 2021 Canada passed a new law. It removed the need to ensure that only people near death, in intolerable pain could receive state assisted suicide.

The Right to Die Human Rights of Others

Here, people with **mental, physical, learning, communication or sensory impairments** are described as having **special needs**. The state responds to these needs by providing legal, social, educational, financial and other forms of support.

Today, the law in Canada says that **any person whose mental, physical, learning, communication or sensory impairments** hinders their full and equal participation in society is eligible for state assisted Dying/Suicide.

The parliament decided that having (what we would call) a special need, can diminish a person’s quality of life so much that their best option is to be given state assisted suicide. This was one way the law offered assisted suicide to more people.

Think of how this changes the way that

- A vulnerable person, or a person with disability, sees their own life.
- People understand the value of every person

Case studies/press report Canadian health care workers pressing people of disability to consider euthanasia due to perceived lack of life quality or care costs.

A law which allows a small number of people the right to choose state assisted dying, reduces the equal rights and treatment of the vulnerable.

This bill is not just about limited assisted dying and safeguards. Don’t be deceived

Impact on Medicine

Canada's assisted dying laws changed the way a doctor treats patients. The new law says that any person experiencing intolerable suffering, **according to the patient**, has the right to claim access to state assisted Dying/Suicide.

By providing the right to die, the law is directing doctors on how to treat patients.

This applies across Canada. All doctors must inform patients about the government program of assisted dying as a "treatment" option, if their patient

- Has a chronic illness (like arthritis, diabetes, epilepsy, heart disease...)
- Has disability issues (mentioned above)

Think of a doctor whose patient requests euthanasia. They may know of a treatment which can address the cause of the patient's suffering. Under the law, they must support the patient request for Dying/Suicide as the first line of treatment. They should offer 2 additional options, but are not obliged to make sure that these treatments are the most effective or are available.

All healthcare facilities in Canada are expected to support state assisted suicide/dying. A hospice who refused to participate in the program had its state funding withdrawn.

"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." Leonie Herxx

Think how such a law in Scotland would affect

The motivation and role of doctors and their desire to practice care and medicine
The relationship between doctor and patient
The reduction in funding health care

**A law which says that doctors must provide death as a form of "treatment", changes the very heart of what National Health and Social care are.
This bill is not just about limited assisted dying and safeguards. Don't be deceived**

Please share this with as many people as you can,
especially in different parts of the country.
Ask them to share their concerns with their MSP, and 7 list MSPs,
These MSPs are the people who will make the final decision,
which will affect us all, and those who follow us.

To find out more information log on to carenotkilling.scot

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

Campaign Against Assisted Dying: Our group is not affiliated to any political party; it was formed to respond to this issue alone.