End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Peter Crosthwaite

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

No, I do not agree that a person should be able to request end of life assistance from a registered medical practitioner. The introduction of this Bill will undermine the relationship between the patient and the medical practitioner – the fears of many patients will remain suppressed due to the frightening agenda of assisted suicide. The current provision of palliative care in Scotland provides wonderful and compassionate care to those who are dying. This care provides adequate pain relief and comfort for the vast majority of patients at the end of their life.

I have a number of medical practitioners in my extended family and I know their personal and professional views on this matter – all of them are against the proposals in the End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill. The vast majority of medical practitioners do not support assisted suicide.

If this Bill was introduced it would mean that society has labelled some lives as not worth living – the implication of this is vast. It changes the way we value human life.

Because of my disagreement with the fundamental principles of this bill I have answered no to all of the subsequent questions.

Are you satisfied with the requirements for age and connection with Scotland as set out in the Bill?
No.

Are you satisfied with the two categories of people who would qualify to be assisted under the terms of the Bill?
No.

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?
No.

Do you consider the level and nature of safeguards as set out in the Bill to be appropriate?
No.

Peter Crosthwaite
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