

Current Legislation

The Suicide Act came into effect in 1961 which one of the reasons why it is outdated.

The Act was reformed to decriminalise suicide. According to section 1 of the act a person can take their own life if they are capable of doing so without being liable for their actions. If the taking of one's own life is not seen as a criminal act why is Euthanasia?

If someone is no longer able to take their own life due to a debilitating disease etc they should not be denied the ability to choose to die. The person aiding them to commit this act should not have to fear being punished to help someone end their life in a dignified way.

In 2006 the House of Lords blocked the Assisted Dying Bill that would have allowed terminally ill people to be helped to take their own life. The bill proposed that after signing a legal declaration agreeing to Euthanasia, a patient's doctor could prescribe a lethal dose of medication that the patient could take themselves.

Why Euthanasia should be legalised

1. Human beings should have the right to be able to decide when and how they die
2. Euthanasia allows people to die with dignity and control
3. Death is a private matter, the state should not interfere with an individual's right to die.
4. It is expensive to keep patients alive when there is no cure for their illness.
5. Family and friends would be spared the pain of seeing their loved ones suffering a long, painful death.
6. Society permits animals to be put down, if suffering, as an act of kindness so the same treatment should be available to humans.

Intro:

The bill we propose would **legalise** both **Euthanasia** and **Assisted Suicide** – the difference is important! Assisted suicide is providing somebody with the means to **end their own life** through prescribed medication from a doctor. Euthanasia is the act of ending another person's life **at their request**. Whilst some countries have only legalised assisted suicide, we propose that the UK legalises both – this allows the patient to have **maximum control** over their life and the decision they're making, and also enables more patients to be eligible, so more cases are accepted.

79%
of religious
people support
assisted dying

44%
of people would
break the law to
assist the death of
a loved one

Why
Euthanasia
should be
legalised in the
UK

BY MOLLY,
DELIGHT,
GEORGIE, RACHAL,
EMILY AND MARIA



"The problem with MND is that the course of the disease is so variable, and each person's progress is different. No one is able to tell you exactly what is going to happen to you. As my condition has continued to deteriorate and I have become more aware of what will happen, I have become increasingly focused on end-of-life concerns."

Where we are now

Countries who have legalised Euthanasia:
Netherlands, Luxemburg, Canada, Belgium etc.

Countries who have legalised Assisted Dying:
Switzerland, Germany and Japan and New Zealand.

Pro Campaigns in the UK:
Dignity in Dying and My Death My Decision

Reform

Patient or family request procedure because of unbearable pain, or right to live and die in dignity.

New legislation that would allow:
(1) For people over the age of 18 of sound mind;

(a) In good health or otherwise, to sign a consent document declaring their wish to be euthanised in the event that they qualify

(b) If still capable of doing so freely, to be given a period of 12 months to decide whether they want to request the procedure. If condition acquired more than 12 months before passing of the law waiting period does not apply

(c) Family to be allowed opportunity to request procedure if patient lost mental capacity to do so before law was passed, but not at birth

(2) For people aged between 12-15 to be allowed request for procedure with parental consent.

(3) For people aged 16-17 to be treated as 18 year olds, but with parents informed