

Inquiry into End of Life Choices



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

Yasmin Qureshi (Lab)



- *About her mother:* She has recovered, but when she was suffering, she was saying, **'I feel I am a real burden on my family. I can't do this.'** She was very emotionally distressed, and she still sometimes gets distressed, **but she has survived and she is now healthy.**

Lyn Brown (Lab)

About her mum: My mum died suddenly and unexpectedly, riddled by cancer, but **I know that my mum, faced with a terminal prognosis in a world where there was the possibility of state-assisted suicide, acceptable and accepted by society, would have tormented herself** during her last months with the question of when she should ask for that button to be pressed. She would have worried about the stresses that my sister and I would have endured, she would have worried about the weight of her care being shouldered by the nurses and the doctors, and **she would have been anxious that folk would think that she was consuming too many resources, selfishly staying alive, costing money, when she could and should just die.** My mum was not vulnerable. She was not alone or a depressive. She was dearly loved; **and yet I know that the mere existence of legal and assisted suicide would have placed an enormous burden on her. But what of those without a loving family?**



Jim Shannon (DUP)



About his friend: Everyone in the Chamber knows many such examples, and we could cite large numbers of them. I have a friend who has just lost the battle with cancer after 13 years. When she was diagnosed, she was told that she had six to nine months to live, but she defied all the odds. At the time, her son was 11 years old, but she saw him pass exams, learn to drive, graduate and settle down. She saw him grow from a small boy into a bright young man, and she loved life right until the very end. **I wanted to tell that story because it is not unheard of, given the pioneering research that is continually being carried out, that cures to many illnesses and diseases will be found, as I have no doubt they will.**

John Pugh (LD)



We are talking about assisted suicide, and there is no essential right for people to demand of the state that it assists them with their suicide. **In fact, it is the policy of governments to reduce the number of suicides**, and normally it is our moral duty to discourage suicide.

Dr Brian Pollard

- By any criterion, it must be ethically superior to attend to the elimination of human distress before the elimination of human in distress.
- In any other sphere of human activity, if it were proposed that people in distress should be killed in preference to applying known and proven remedies for the relief of that distress, the proposal would be seen as grotesque and anti-human and would be universally condemned.

Gordon Marsden (Lab)



John Donne famously said, “No man is an island” – and no woman, for that matter. It has been suggested today that **the decision that we make** is simply for the individual. It is **not simply for the individual** – it is for the families who are impacted by it, for the doctors who have to go through agony trying to decide what to do about it, and for all of us in society who will take the consequences on board. p59

Lyn Brown (Lab)

About her mum: My mum died suddenly and unexpectedly, riddled by cancer, but I know that my mum, faced with a terminal prognosis in a world where there was the possibility of **state-assisted suicide**, acceptable and accepted by society, would have tormented herself during her last months with the question of when she should ask for that button to be pressed.



Fiona Bruce (Con)

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**Member of Parliament for
Congleton**



In legislating for euthanasia we will have crossed the Rubicon, from killing people being illegal to killing people being legal. That is not doing justice. **We are here to protect the most vulnerable in our society**, not legislate to kill them. p17

Ian Paisley (DUP)

I believe that Parliament should be in the business of giving people reason to live, not of creating laws that facilitate and accelerate people's death. p60



Outcome

- In a free vote in the House of Commons on 11 September 2015, MPs rejected enshrining assisted suicide and euthanasia in British law. 330 MPs were against and 118 in favour of plans to allow terminally ill adults to end their lives with medical supervision.