

Final Presentation for Joanne-Masuma Begum- 1915403

by Masuma Begum

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Presentation on the Argument - Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide in the UK

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- ▶ Module: Living with Care: The Elderly Person
- ▶ Module Code: BMHP 6009_BIRM
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Introduction

- As the elderly near the end of their lives, it is crucial to assess whether there is sufficient end-of-life care accessible and if it adheres to the relevant laws and regulations concerning end-of-life care preparation (NHS, 2022).



(Nurse Next Door, 2022)



What is ²End-of-Life Care

- ▶ “Support for those who are in their final months or years of life...”
- ▶ Including advanced, untreatable diseases like cancer, dementia, or motor neurone disease

(NHS, 2022)

Who provides End of Life Care (ELC)?

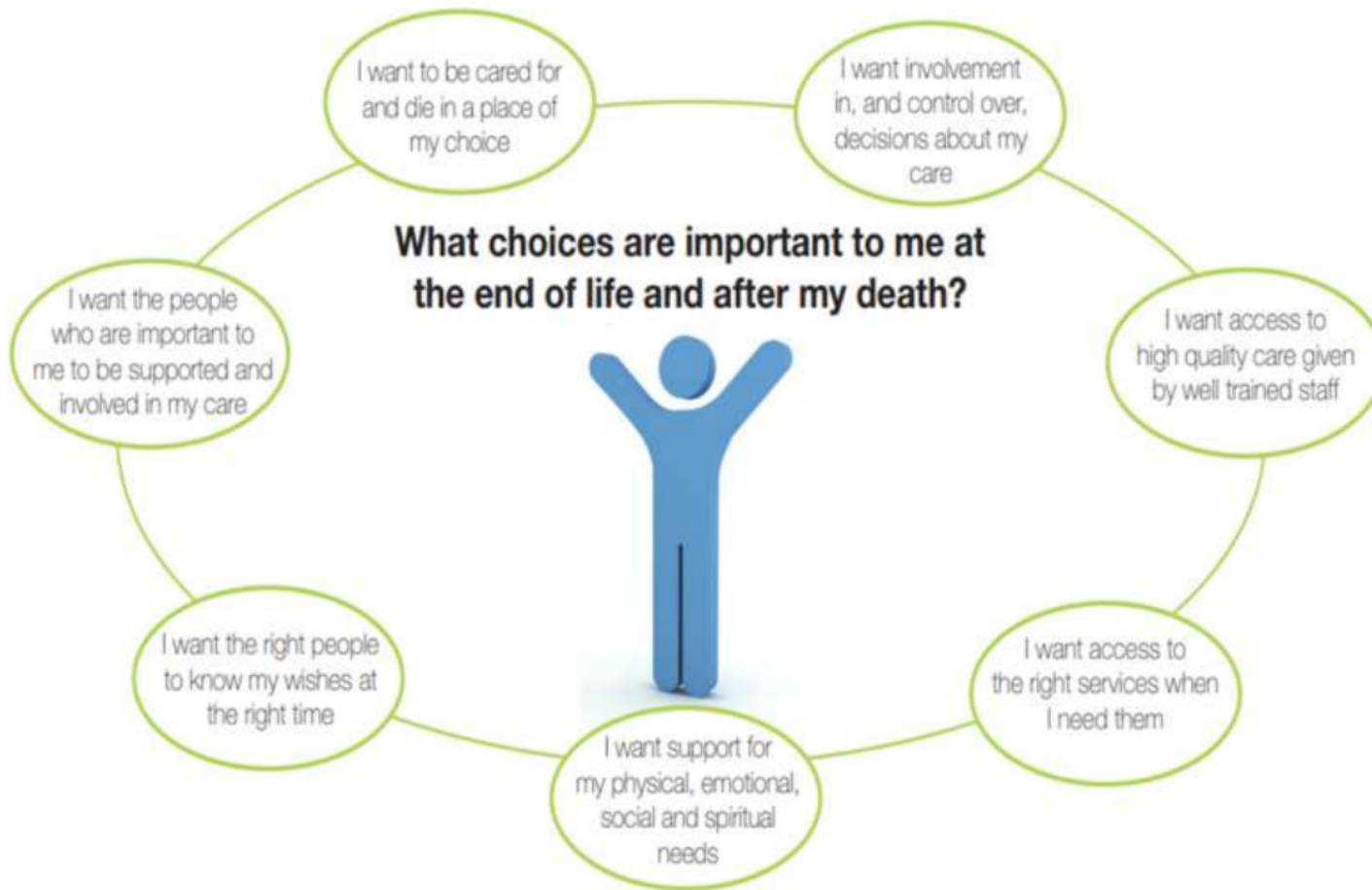
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“social workers, physiotherapists/ occupational therapists, hospital doctors and nurses, GP, community nurses, hospice professionals, and counsellors may all be engaged.”



Depending on one's requirements and preferences
– it is provided in hospice/hospital, community or patients home.

(NHS, 2022; NHS, 2020; NHS 2018)



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Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC, 2015)

(Department of Health and Social Care, 2015)

What is Palliative Care?



Palliative Care (PC) is about giving people with a terminal illness physical, emotional, and practical support (NCI, 2021; NHS, 2020).



According to NCI (2021), the ultimate goal of palliative care is to enhance the quality of life for patients who have serious or life-threatening conditions.



- ▶ “hospital, an outpatient clinic, hospice care, a long-term care facility, or at home” (NCI, 2021).
- ▶ Palliative care is available to everyone, regardless of age or disease stage (NCI, 2021).

The Gap Between Needs and Availability of End-of-Life Care

▶ According to Hospice Care UK (2017), An analysis indicated over 118,000 people, who need end-of-life care.

▶ According to the NICE 2020, a recent report indicates, that the majority of people admitted to the hospital did not have a prior care plan in place.



Planning for the end-of-life care

- ▶ Living Will
- ▶ Advance statement
- ▶ DNR statement
- ▶ Lasting power of attorney





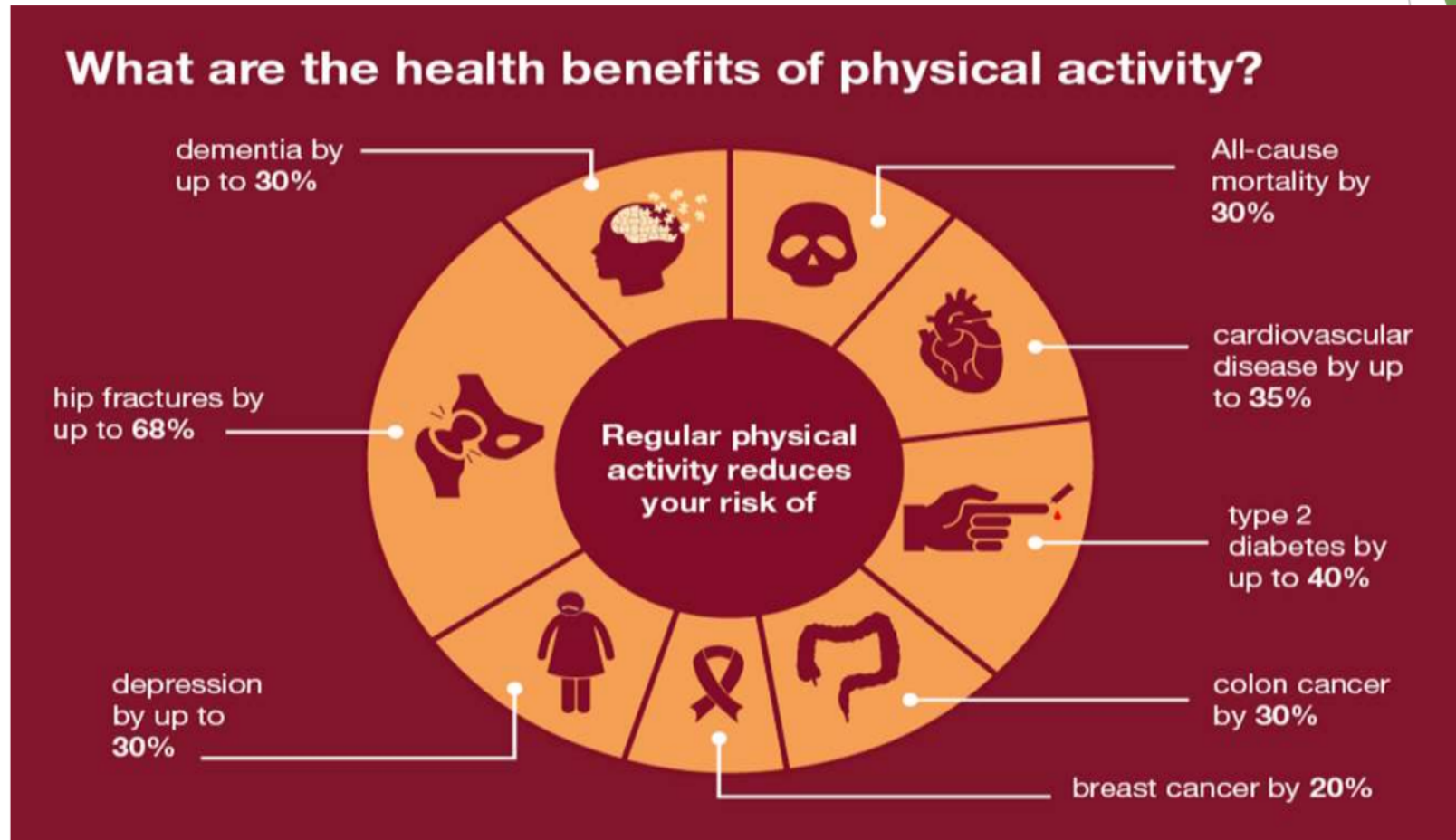
Theories of Aging

Ebersole (2005) states that there are three main psychosocial theories that elucidate the development of individuals in old age.

- ▶ The disengagement theory
- ▶ The activity theory
- ▶ The continuity theory

(Ebersole, 2005)

► The Public Health England (2021) policy- The NHS Guidance Physical activity: applying All Our Health

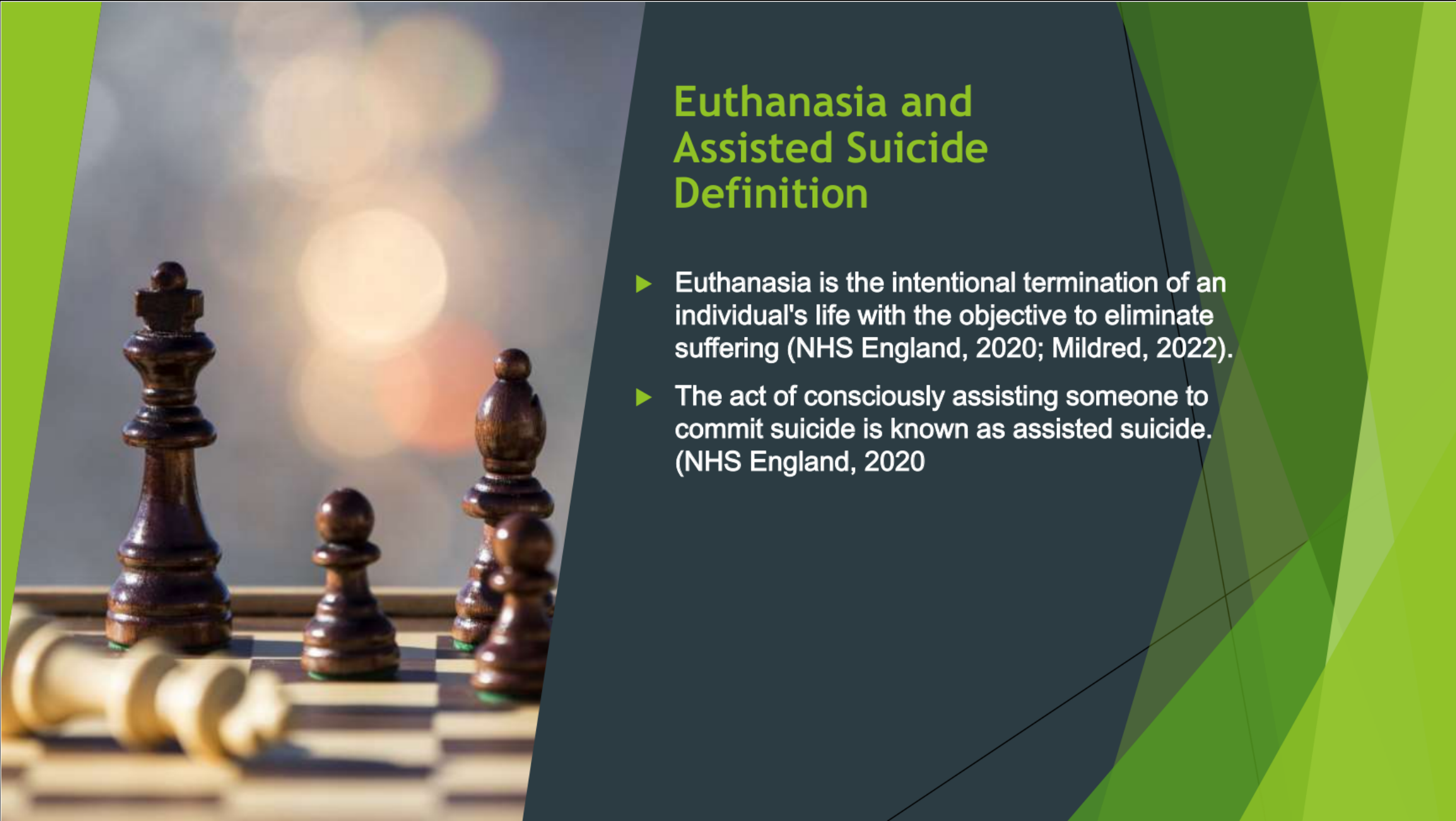


(The Public Health England, 2021)

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

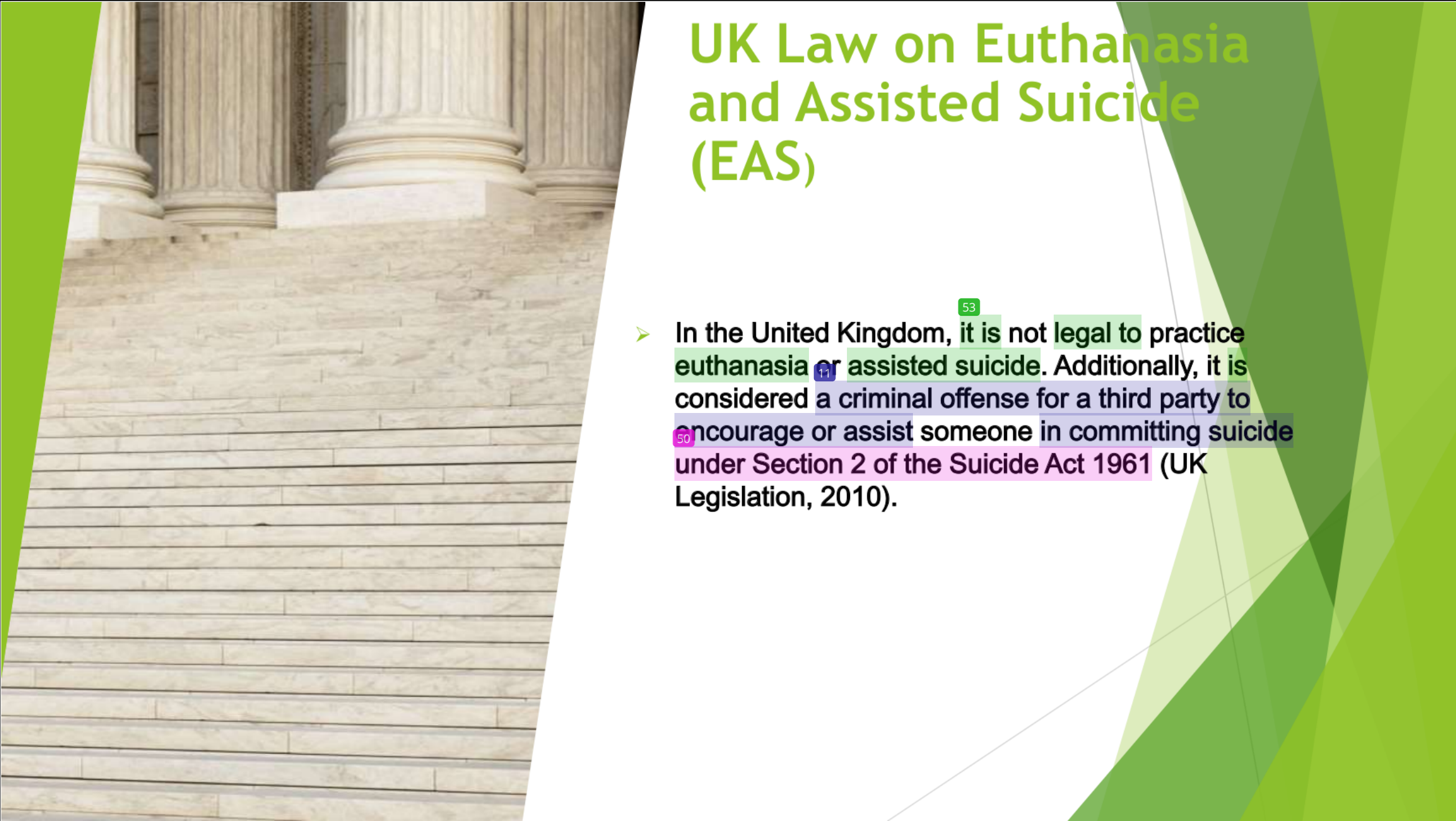


► (Cherry, 2022; MacLeod, 2023)



Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Definition

- ▶ Euthanasia is the intentional termination of an individual's life with the objective to eliminate suffering (NHS England, 2020; Mildred, 2022).
- ▶ The act of consciously assisting someone to commit suicide is known as assisted suicide. (NHS England, 2020)



UK Law on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide (EAS)

- In the United Kingdom, it is not legal to practice euthanasia or assisted suicide. Additionally, it is considered a criminal offense for a third party to encourage or assist someone in committing suicide under Section 2 of the Suicide Act 1961 (UK Legislation, 2010).

Northern Ireland

Euthanasia is illegal and could be prosecuted as murder or manslaughter.

'Assisting or encouraging' another person's suicide is illegal under s.13 of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 1966, which extends the Suicide Act 1961 to Northern Ireland.

The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) examines individual cases to decide whether to prosecute. That decision is guided by offence-specific guidelines published in 2010.

England and Wales

Euthanasia is illegal and could be prosecuted as murder or manslaughter.

'Assisting or encouraging' another person's suicide is prohibited by s.2 of the Suicide Act 1961, as amended by the Coroners and Justice Act 2009.

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) examines individual cases to decide whether to prosecute. That decision is guided by offence-specific guidelines published in 2010.

Since April 2009, there have been 167 cases referred to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), three of which have been successfully prosecuted. (3)



Scotland

Euthanasia is illegal and could be prosecuted as murder or manslaughter.

There is no specific offence of assisting or encouraging suicide in Scotland. Any suspected offence would be dealt with under homicide law. (1)

The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) makes the decision whether to prosecute. There are no offence-specific guidelines in Scotland and the decision will be taken on the basis of the general prosecution code. A legal challenge to compel the COPFS to produce offence-specific guidelines failed in 2015.

The last known prosecution was taken in 2006, in an unreported case. (2)

Law on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Around the World.

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A small but rising number of nations have legalized euthanasia in severe circumstances under strict restrictions

patients under the age of 18 require parental permission

38

Australia, Colombia, New Zealand, Belgium, Luxembourg, Spain, Canada, and the Netherlands have all legalised euthanasia.

(World Population Review, 2023)

For and Against Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

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“84% of the public support the choice of assisted dying for terminally ill adults” (Dignity in Dying, 2023),

Legalising euthanasia raises concerns that the gradual decline in the value of human life may lead to unforeseen consequences for society (NHS, 2022).



(Kagi & Sando, 2019)



(Kagi & Sando, 2019)



We want to say very clearly that
there is no such thing as a life without value.
We ask people to consider the manner in which
assisted suicide and euthanasia undermines
the whole ethos of healthcare.

- Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

For and Against Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

► (Walsh, 2023)

Argument Continued...

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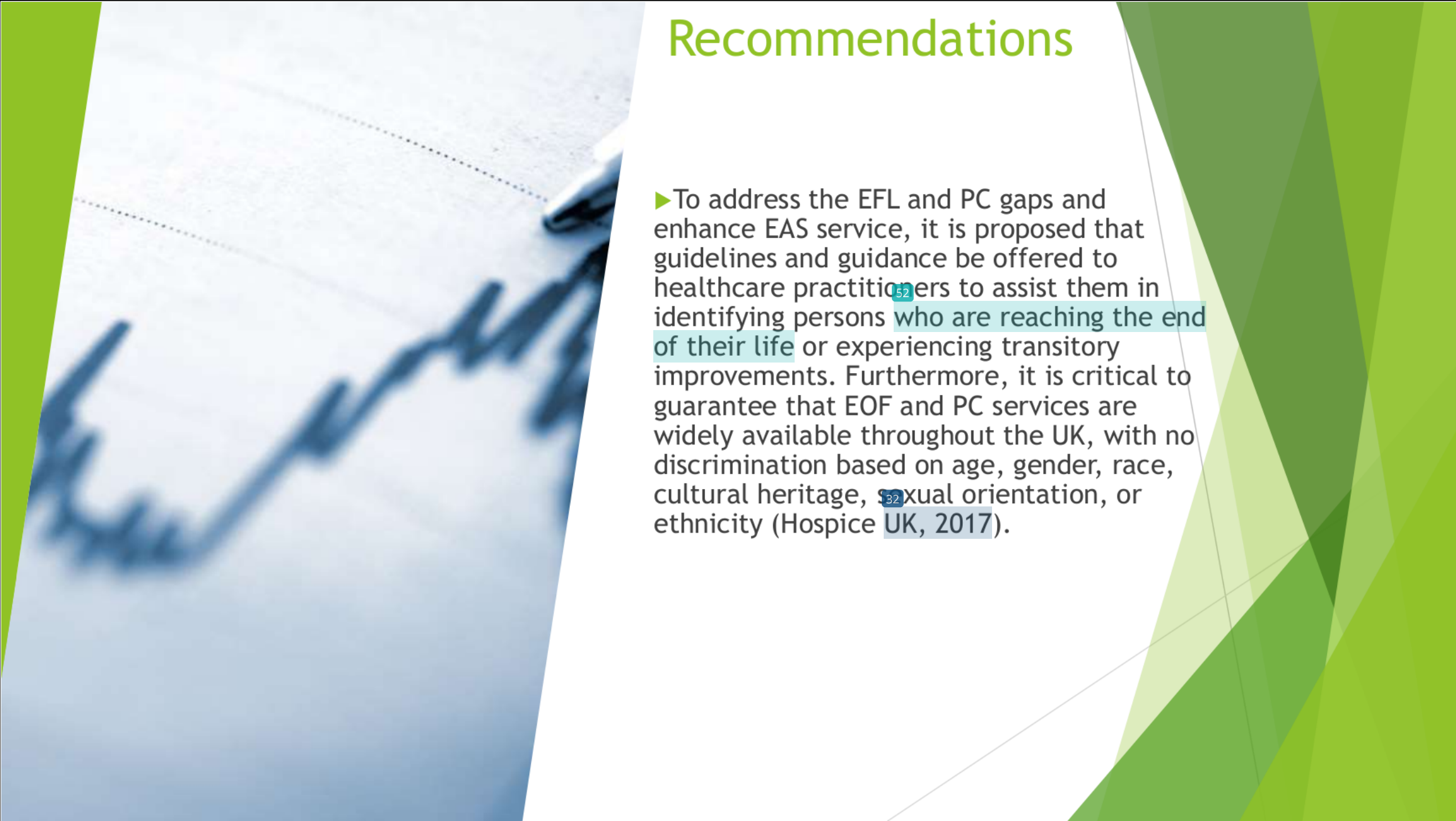
“According to BBC (2014) The slippery slope argument says that if we allow something relatively harmless today, we may start a trend that results in something currently unthinkable becoming accepted.”

“According to Mildred (2022 and NHS (2018), If patients decide that terminating their agony and suffering as a result of a terminal illness is what they want, the doctor must comply.”



Conclusion

► According to Nilstun et al (2000), the complexity of the ethics surrounding euthanasia requires careful consideration of the consequences for patients in pain, their families, the public, and healthcare professionals. It is crucial to examine how these choices will impact the relationships between these groups. Merely considering the opinions of the general public is insufficient; we must also honour the autonomy of the dying patient, their families, and healthcare professionals.



Recommendations

- To address the EFL and PC gaps and enhance EAS service, it is proposed that guidelines and guidance be offered to healthcare practitioners to assist them in identifying persons who are reaching the end of their life or experiencing transitory improvements. Furthermore, it is critical to guarantee that EOF and PC services are widely available throughout the UK, with no discrimination based on age, gender, race, cultural heritage, sexual orientation, or ethnicity (Hospice UK, 2017).

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