

Amina bibi and osalava presentation debate

by Amina Bibi

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¹Assessment 1 – Debate Presentation

Programme: **BSc Health and Social Care**
Module: Living with care : The Older Person
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Euthanasia in the UK and Assisted Suicide

Definition of Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

- The deliberate taking of a person's life to stop their suffering is a practice that both euthanasia and assisted suicide share. Although the terms are frequently used together, they differ (NHS, 2020).
- Euthanasia: intentionally takes another person's life to end their suffering (RightToLifeUK, 2022).
- It can either be done voluntarily or not.
- Euthanasia is the act of one person—usually a doctor—putting their patient's life to death (Riisfeldt, 2023).
- Assisted suicide: is intentionally assisting another person's suicide (BBC News, 2019).



Source: Duperrin.com, 2023



¹ The law in the United Kingdom regarding Euthanasia and Assisted suicide Source: Pixabay.com, 2023

¹ According to the Suicide Act of 1961, assisted suicide is against the law and is subject to a 14-year prison sentence. However, it is not illegal to attempt suicide.

The Coroners and Justice Act 2009 exempted bringing charges under section 2 of the 1961 act. if “the victim had reached a voluntary, clear, settled and informed decision to commit suicide, “ any person assisting was “wholly motivated by compassion” (Lewis, 2021)

“Euthanasia is illegal and could be prosecuted as murder or manslaughter” (British Medical Association, 2021).

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International Law

Only fourteen countries globally (7% of all) allow assisted suicide and/or euthanasia (RightToLifeUK, 2022).

Anti-Euthanasia Arguments

Ethical and Practical Arguments

- NHS values improving lives, and everyone counts (Health Education England, 2017).
- The value of suffering
- Society's respect for life is destroyed through euthanasia.
- Accepting euthanasia reflects the understanding that individual lives—those of the sick and disabled—are less valuable than others.
- Other people's rights, not simply the patient's, are impacted by euthanasia.
- Euthanasia contradicts the desire to offer effective pain management and quality care for the terminally ill.
- Euthanasia legislation weakens the dedication of medical professionals to preserving lives.
- Euthanasia legislation will stop the development of novel therapies and cures for terminally sick people (BBC, 2014).

Religious arguments

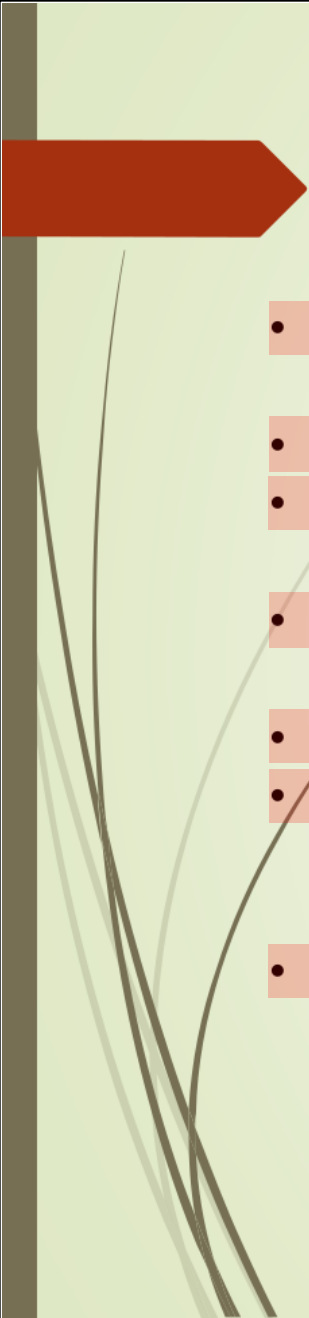
- A path of decline that leads to premature deaths and the killing of persons who are deemed undesirable begins with voluntary euthanasia.



End of life and palliative care facilities

Hospice care- End-of-life care and palliative care

- Patients with terminal illnesses and a life expectancy of six months or fewer often receive hospice care (NHS Choices, 2019).
- Although it can be provided in specialised hospice facilities, hospice care is frequently given to patients in their homes, nursing homes, or assisted living facilities (NHS Choices, 2019).
- Hospice care focuses on pain control relief and spiritual and emotional support for the patient's family (NHS Choices, 2019).
- Palliative care can significantly improve your quality of life and the quality of life of those who care for you if you have been diagnosed with a serious, chronic illness or a life-threatening condition (Kam, 2011).
- The awareness of the human aspect of the illness is one of the benefits of palliative care (Kam, 2011).



The gap between the need and availability of end-of-life care

- Financial limitations, a lack of end-of-life care infrastructure, and a shortage of terminally ill specialists
 - Lack of high-quality care
 - Doctors need more training and support to improve the quality of end-of-life care they can provide.
 - Hospice staff often have difficulty recognising the point at which a transition to a palliative care approach may be appropriate.
 - The well-being of families
 - The availability and use of end-of-life care can be influenced by cultural attitudes, beliefs, and social norms surrounding death and dying.
- (End of Life Care Fifth Report of Session 2014-15 Report, together with formal minutes relating to the report, 2015)

Legislation

The law

Both euthanasia and assisted suicide are illegal under English law.

Assisted suicide ²

Assisted suicide is illegal under the terms of the Suicide Act (1961) and is punishable by up to 14 years' imprisonment. Trying to kill yourself is not a criminal act.

Euthanasia

Depending on the circumstances, euthanasia is regarded as either manslaughter or murder. The maximum penalty is life imprisonment.

Types of euthanasia

Euthanasia can be classified as:

- **voluntary euthanasia** – where a person makes a conscious decision to die and asks for help to do so
- **non-voluntary euthanasia** – where a person is unable to give their consent (for example, because they're in a coma) and another person takes the decision on their behalf, perhaps because the ill person previously expressed a wish for their life to be ended in such circumstances. (NHS choices 2020)

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