

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 17th November 2014

LIFE disappointed by Nicklinson move to European Court over assisted dying

We are disappointed that the widow of Tony Nicklinson is taking his fight to the European Court. She is arguing that the UK violated their human rights because MPs have not debated assisted dying. Her case comes at a time when Parliament is actually considering a law on assisted dying.

LIFE spokesman Niall Gooch said: “The parliamentary process should be allowed to proceed as planned. It is important that the pro-euthanasia lobby does not seek to cloud this debate. We have enormous sympathy with people who find themselves in terrible pain and suffering, but hard cases make bad law. Changing the law to legalise some forms of intentional killing – thereby removing protection from all sick, elderly and disabled people who wish to remain alive – cannot be regarded simply as a personal matter. It is a question of public safety and the common good. Mrs Nicklinson’s campaign, if successful, could mean that it is precisely those vulnerable people in situations like her late husband who would be placed at greatest risk.

Once we have admitted into law the principle that killing is an appropriate treatment for certain people, it becomes very difficult to control. We should look, for instance, to the Netherlands, where in just a few short years assisted suicide has become more widespread. Beginning as an option for a few people in severe pain, it is now offered to teenagers with depression, non-responsive patients who have not made any request to be killed and even those who are simply ‘tired of life’.

The highest British courts, and the European Court of Human Rights, have said time and again that there is no “right to die” in British or European law. We must respect this principle or the lives of thousands of vulnerable people will be placed at risk.”

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For further media comment please call the LIFE Media Hotline on 07867 744502

LIFE is a pro-life charity that supports anyone facing a crisis pregnancy, pregnancy loss or after an abortion, and strives to engage, inspire and inform the next generation.