

PRESS RELEASE

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Philip Nitschke should not be allowed to enter the UK?

The national pro-life charity LIFE is repeating its call for the Australian pro-euthanasia campaigner Philip Nitschke to be prevented from entering the UK after an Australian Tribunal deemed him to be a risk to public health and safety.

Nitschke who has already run suicide workshops in the UK has announced he will be coming back to attend the Edinburgh Festival this summer where he will be doing stand-up comedy.

Dr Nitschke has, by his own admission, assisted numerous suicides. He is a radical proponent of euthanasia on demand and has stated that he does not believe in any legal limits at all on any person's supposed "right" to end their own lives including even the 'troubled teen'.

This Australian Health Professional Tribunal this week dismissed an appeal by Dr Nitschke against the suspension of his licence to practice medicine in Australia. This followed investigations into his relationship with a 45-year-old depressed man who later committed suicide.

LIFE Spokesman Niall Gooch said, "The tribunal described Nitschke as a risk to public health and safety. He is therefore a highly unsuitable and dangerous person to be allowed to enter the UK. His advocacy and encouragement of euthanasia places disabled and vulnerable people at great risk and is not conducive to the public good.

Failing to act against Dr Nitschke would also encourage organisations such as EXIT International, which he founded and which reflects his extreme and dangerous views. EXIT encourages and enables people to end their own lives. Often these people are highly vulnerable because of age, sickness, infirmity or loneliness, and so encouraging them to kill themselves is deeply irresponsible.

EXIT now has an office in the UK. Its operations in this country are potentially illegal, given the strict provisions of the 1961 Suicide Act, which prohibits anyone from aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring another person's suicide.

It is imperative that Dr Nitschke to be refused entry to the UK, and for EXIT to be closely monitored for any evidence that the law is being broken."

END

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.