



REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1128355

Friday 3rd October 2014

Suicide workshops in London should not be tolerated

The national pro-life charity LIFE is calling for a crackdown on suicide workshops being run in London by Exit International.

LIFE today urged that the authorities to move to ensure the workshops are stopped while noting that the pro-euthanasia group is expanding its operations in the UK with the opening of a new office in London.

LIFE spokesman Niall Gooch said "EXIT International is an extreme pro-euthanasia group, which encourages and enables people to end their own lives. Often these people are highly vulnerable because of age, sickness, infirmity or loneliness, which means that normalising and trivialising suicide is dangerous and irresponsible.

Many of EXIT's actions appear to be of dubious legality, given the strict provisions of the 1961 Suicide Act that prohibit anyone from aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring another person's suicide. Indeed, EXIT's Irish director was questioned (though not charged) by police in 2012 regarding the death of a woman from Yorkshire.

On September 1 this year, the late MP Jim Dobbin asked the Government if it would refuse visas to foreign nationals entering the UK with the aim of encouraging or assisting suicide. The response from the Government was that a foreign national may be refused entry clearance or leave to enter the UK if, from information available, the person's exclusion is considered to be conducive to the public good. We submit that the presence of Exit founder, the Australian Dr Philip Nitschke, a notorious figure who has personally enabled many suicides, satisfies this condition. If he is currently in Britain he should be sent back to Australia immediately.

Dr Nitschke states that he does not believe in any legal limits at all on people's supposed right to end their own lives. If implemented, such a policy would place thousands at risk and radically undermine our society's respect for life and support for the vulnerable.

There are better ways to help people who are terminally ill or in great pain than simply to end their lives. We must continue to emphasise compassionate and life-enhancing solutions.+

ENDS

For more information call 07867 744502

LIFE, a registered charity (no. 1128355), is the UK's leading provider of crisis pregnancy and post-abortion counselling and supported accommodation for pregnant women and mothers of small children.

LIFE Caring offers counselling, information and support on abortion and pregnancy related issues via our free phone national helpline (0800 915 4600) or our nationwide network of pregnancy care centres.

LIFE Housing runs a supported housing programme for pregnant women and mothers of small children.

LIFE Education employs full-time education officers throughout the UK, who speak to students about abortion, euthanasia and embryo research, as well as sex and relationships. We encourage them to save sex for marriage, and promote commitment, fidelity and permanence in all relationships.