

**Committee:** General Assembly 3  
**Issue:** The Question of Euthanasia  
**Student Officer:** Hend Wahdan (General Assembly 3 President)

## I. Introduction

In cases of extreme pain or incurable illness, mercy killing, or **euthanasia**, is when a human or animal is put to death, or left to die. The term euthanasia translates from Greek to mean “easy death.”<sup>1</sup> It is seen as an act to end suffering. Types of euthanasia include active and passive euthanasia; the former is when there is direct intervention to end a person's life, and the latter is when death is caused by the withholding of crucial treatment. Mercy killing can also be classified in accordance to the subject's consent. This includes voluntary euthanasia (VE), non-voluntary euthanasia, and involuntary euthanasia. The voluntary categorisation refers to the patient's full consent, the non-voluntary is in the absence of the patient's consciousness and hence ability to provide consent, whilst the involuntary is in the case that the killing is undergone against the patient's will.<sup>2</sup>

**Although euthanasia may incorrectly be used interchangeably with physician-assisted suicide, the two are not the same.** The difference between both mainly lies within the degree of involvement of the physician. Whereas euthanasia requires direct action to end a patient's life, such as a lethal injection, assisted suicide would mean that the physician only provide the means of death; providing a prescription as an example.<sup>3</sup> Euthanasia is gaining prominence in the world as it is continually being debated as a valid solution to suffering. Countries such as the Netherlands and Israel exemplify two sides of the medical and ethical controversy.

## II. Involved Countries and Organisations

### Netherlands

Being the first country to legalise euthanasia, the Netherlands has been formally involved in the controversial issue since 2002. Strict conditions were imposed regarding the severity of suffering, incurability of illness, and the patient's full consciousness. With the legalisation of euthanasia, **palliative sedation** became a growing practice in hospitals and the

---

<sup>1</sup> "euthanasia". *The American Heritage® New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy, Third Edition*. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2005. 8 Jul. 2017.

<[Dictionary.com http://www.dictionary.com/browse/euthanasia](http://www.dictionary.com/browse/euthanasia)>.

<sup>2</sup> "Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide." *NHS Choices*. Gov.uk, 11 Aug. 2011. Web. 18 July 2017.

<<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Euthanasiaandassistedsuicide/Pages/Introduction.aspx>>.

<sup>3</sup> "Is Physician-assisted Suicide the Same as Euthanasia?" *Is Physician-assisted Suicide the Same as Euthanasia?* | *The World Federation of Right to Die Societies*. The World Federation of Right to Die Societies, n.d. Web. 29 July 2017. <<http://www.worldrtd.net/qanda/physician-assisted-suicide-same-euthanasia>>.

“right to suicide” became a topic of debate considering assisted suicide beyond the aforementioned condition remains illegal.<sup>4</sup>

Further regarding the patient’s state, the suffering must be intolerable but “need not be related to a terminal illness and is not limited to physical suffering such as pain. It can include, for example, the prospect of loss of personal dignity or increasing personal deterioration, or the fear of suffocation.”

Also, in light of the emphasis on the person's consciousness, euthanasia is permitted to those who are at least 12 years of age and “competent.” Between the ages 12 and 16 a patient would require their parent or guardian’s consent, whilst between the ages 16 and 18 the guardian is only consulted but it is ultimately up to the patient’s request. Additionally, to allow a patient’s request for euthanasia, a second doctor is consulted for the validity of the case and regard the unbearable of the suffering. Euthanasia in the Netherlands has accounted for 2.8% of deaths in 2010.<sup>5</sup>

## Israel

Active euthanasia is banned in Israel by state as well as Jewish law. However, the discontinuation of treatment, or passive euthanasia, has been permitted by the Tel Aviv District Court (Dying Patient Act) yet banned by religious law.<sup>6</sup> Considering that it is wrong by Jewish law for a person to end another or his/her own life, passive euthanasia in Israel is to be performed by machines. The respirators of terminally ill patients are planned to be connected to timers that go off 12 hours before they are set to turn off the respirators. In many cases, carers cancel the alarm but that is not mandatory if certain conditions are met with the patient or guardian’s consent. Health minister, Danny Naveh, sees that the passing of a law that allows for such “represents major moral value for the terminally ill and their families.”<sup>7</sup> That being said, although the research for such machines has concluded, they are yet to be applied and the current legal position remains complex. Despite stances on euthanasia being affected by religion, a number of Israeli physicians support passive euthanasia and would be willing to perform active euthanasia.<sup>8</sup>

The Health Ministry in Israel had planned to expand **palliative care** service across hospitals in the country but faced delays. The professor that headed the committee that issued this rule for palliative care provision, Pesach Shvartzman, says that some choose euthanasia “as a

---

<sup>4</sup> staff, Guardian. “Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Laws around the World.” *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 17 July 2014. <[www.theguardian.com/society/2014/jul/17/euthanasia-assisted-suicide-laws-world](http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/jul/17/euthanasia-assisted-suicide-laws-world)>.

<sup>5</sup> Lewis, Penney. “Assisted Dying: What Does the Law in Different Countries Say?” *BBC News*. BBC, 06 Oct. 2015. Web. 08 Aug. 2017. <<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-34445715>>.

<sup>6</sup> “Euthanasia & Physician-Assisted Suicide (PAS) around the World.” *Euthanasia*. ProCon.org, 20 July 2016. Web. 9 Aug. 2017. <<http://euthanasia.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000136>>.

<sup>7</sup> Butcher, Tim. “Israelis to Be Allowed Euthanasia by Machine.” *The Telegraph*. Telegraph Media Group, 8 Dec. 2005. Web. 10 Aug. 2017. <<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/israel/1505018/Israelis-to-be-allowed-euthanasia-by-machine.html>>.

<sup>8</sup> D, Doron. “Israeli Dying Patient Act: Physician Knowledge and Attitudes.” *NCBI*. PubMed, Dec. 2014. Web. 10 Aug. 2017. <<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23660598>>.

solution to suffering because they have no other solution.”<sup>9</sup> He encourages that “[Israel] as a country must be certain that anyone who chooses euthanasia does so out of deliberate choice, and not on the assumption that it's the only way to prevent suffering.” Currently, those who perform euthanasia are regarded as transgressors and subject to criminal charges. The court has explained that “anyone who deliberately tries to take a life will be sentenced to imprisonment.”<sup>10</sup>

### Exit International

Dr Philip Nitschke established Exit International after the world’s first Voluntary Euthanasia law was repealed in 1997. Formerly known as Voluntary Euthanasia Research Foundation (VERF), Exit is an organisation that advocates for an individual’s right to the self-determination of the ending of their life based on a civil rights approach. Although it is based in Australia, the organisation has supporters and members internationally. It is involved in: hosting workshops for those who are **terminally ill** and above the age of 50, research and development on matters related to end of life, as well as political advocacy.<sup>11</sup>

Founder of Exit International, Philip Nitschke, is the first doctor to legally administer a voluntary injection for voluntary euthanasia. Nitschke believes “it is a fundamental human right for every adult of sound mind, to be able to plan for the end of their life in a way that is reliable, peaceful and at a time of their choosing.”<sup>12</sup> His organisation leads a ‘militant pro euthanasia program’ called Exit Action. This program acts towards “legislative change on issues such as the decriminalization of possession of end of life drugs...[It] is the embodiment of the civil rights model of control over one’s end of life choices.”<sup>13</sup> While the ‘medical model’ regards voluntary euthanasia as a privilege provided by medical professionals to those who are seriously ill, Exit Action believes it to be a human right. Nitschke explained the programs belief “that a peaceful death, and access to the best euthanasia drugs, is a right of all competent adults, regardless of sickness or permission from the medical profession.”<sup>14</sup>

### III. Focused Overview of the Issue

#### 1) Why People Choose Euthanasia

While 86% of the public supports euthanasia for those who are on life support or terminally ill, an average of 55% of those who are terminally ill still die in pain.<sup>15</sup> That being

<sup>9</sup> Even, Dan. "In Israel, Assisted Suicide Is Not Painless." *Haaretz*. Haaretz Daily Newspaper, 3 Dec. 2012. Web. 11 Aug. 2017. <<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/in-israel-assisted-suicide-is-not-painless.premium-1.481982>>.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> "Exit International | About Us - Assisted Suicide, Voluntary Euthanasia Law, End of Life Matters." *Exit International About Us Comments*. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 July 2017. <<https://exitinternational.net/about-exit/history/>>.

<sup>12</sup> "Exit International | Philip Nitschke." *Philip Nitschke*. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 July 2017. <<https://exitinternational.net/about-exit/dr-philip-nitschke/>>.

<sup>13</sup> "Exit Action." *Exit International* | » *Exit Action*. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 July 2017. <<https://exitinternational.net/exit-action/>>.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

<sup>15</sup> Brain, Statistic. "Euthanasia Statistics." *Euthanasia Statistics*. Statistic Brain, 22 Oct. 2016. Web. 11 Aug. 2017. <<http://www.statisticbrain.com/euthanasia-statistics/>>.

said, overwhelming suffering and short life expectancy are not always the reasons behind undergoing the medical procedure. Some are euthanized for reasons such as a failed Physician-Assisted Suicide, PAS, procedure, lack of knowledge on different solutions, or financial burden of long-term treatment; “ some of the people view it as a practice of wasting money for making a longer painful life.”<sup>16</sup>

Additionally, the ratio of patient to medical staff and hospital space is greatly unbalanced, meaning that large numbers of people are not always able to get treatment. Dutch physicians conducted a study which reported that four out of five of the most popular reasons for euthanasia fall under “psychological factors. The most common reason, cited by 57% of patients was a “loss of dignity” while 33% of patients feel they are being dependant on others.”<sup>17</sup> Moreover, although the medical industry has advanced, many view treatment as prolonging life without necessarily achieving a desirable quality of living (for example living but having to be disabled or in pain), making euthanasia seem like a more feasible option.<sup>18</sup> Also, while religion seems like a great influencer, a study conducted in England showed that the “strength and type of religious faith were found to be largely insignificant in influencing feelings about an earlier death and requests for euthanasia.”<sup>19</sup>

## 2) Ethical Dilemma: For or Against Euthanasia

Possibly the main point of disagreement on euthanasia lies in the disagreement on its morality. For instance, the regard about whether or not voluntary euthanasia is a “moral practice” is 50/50.<sup>20</sup> Some who oppose euthanasia see that alternative options such as palliative care are more reasonable and encouraging for the population of terminally or incurably ill patients. While the “right to life” is sometimes interpreted as inclusive of the right to end life or the right to death, people argue against this and hence against euthanasia by using suicide as an argument. In other words, suicide also goes under the right to end life yet is met with even more rejection than euthanasia, slightly contradicting the “right to life.” According to the constitution of India, as an example, “it is the duty of the State to protect life and the physician's duty to provide care and not to harm patients. If euthanasia is legalised, then there is a grave apprehension that the State may refuse to invest in health (working towards Right to life).”<sup>21</sup> Other than that, an attempt or request to end life is usually regarded as the side effect of mental illness and seen as a psychiatric emergency. Hence, legalising euthanasia alters the outlook on

<sup>16</sup> "Euthanasia Why People Would Opt For Euthanasia Law Medical Essay." LawTeacher. LawTeacher.net, November 2013. Web. 11 August 2017.  
<<https://www.lawteacher.net/free-law-essays/medical-law/euthanasia-why-people-would-opt-for-euthanasia-law-medical-essay.php?cref=1>>.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid

<sup>18</sup> Ibid

<sup>19</sup> Seale, C., and J. Addington-Hall. "Euthanasia: Why People Want to Die Earlier." *Social Science & Medicine* (1982). U.S. National Library of Medicine, Sept. 1994. Web. 11 Aug. 2017.  
<<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7973864>>.

<sup>20</sup> "19 Great Voluntary Euthanasia Statistics." *Medical Articles and Infographics*. Health Research Funding, 4 Jan. 2015. Web. 11 Aug. 2017. <<http://healthresearchfunding.org/19-great-voluntary-euthanasia-statistics/>>.

<sup>21</sup> Math, Suresh Bada, and Santosh K. Chaturvedi. "Euthanasia: Right to Life vs Right to Die." *The Indian Journal of Medical Research*. Medknow Publications & Media Pvt Ltd, Dec. 2012. Web. 11 Aug. 2017.  
<<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3612319/>>.

the desire to take one’s life and seemingly provides a more accessible and quicker end to suffering that many would not appreciate let alone promote. The complex matter of consent, especially when it comes to children or those who lack full consciousness, also makes euthanasia an even more complex issue.

On the other hand, there are those who do support euthanasia. One prevailing argument is the debate of whose right death is. Those who agree with the “right-to-die” believe that it is the patient's right to die with dignity if they wish. In addition, the difficulty in achieving sufficient health care for those who are terminally ill questions the argument of the “right to life.”<sup>22</sup>

Are you "in favour of changing the law to allow doctors to meet the patient's wish to end their life?"

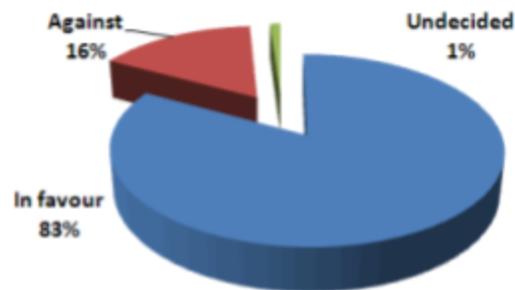
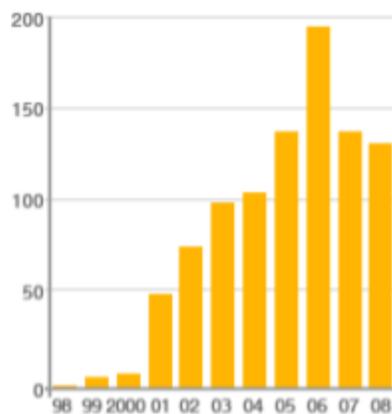


Figure 1: 2009 Mercury Poll euthanasia - Tasmania

### 3) Death Tourism

There have been many cases in which terminally ill patients that live where euthanasia is illegal travel to be euthanised whilst avoiding being regarded as criminals. This is called **death tourism**<sup>24</sup> and the people who do so are called **death tourists**. Many are seen to be forced to do so because their national laws do not allow them a “good death.” Dignitas is an organisation in Switzerland that is known for hosting such tourists and the only one in the country that does so for foreigners. The director of Dignitas clarified that they accept the terminally ill, those with Alzheimer’s, or mentally ill. The organisation “provides foreign nationals with a Swiss doctor who, after seeing the patient only once, will supply the lethal drugs if it appears that the patient's death wish is the result of a

Dignitas deaths 1998-2008

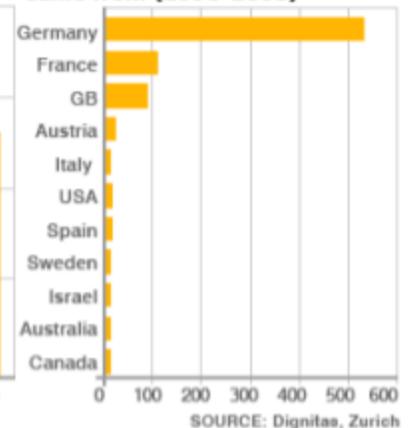


Euthanasia and assisted suicides:

Belgium **495**  
Netherlands **2120**

Figure 2: Dignitas Deaths 1998-2008

Where most Dignitas patients came from (1998-2008)



Oregon **60** (2008 ODHS)  
Washington State **11** (Mar-Sep 2009)

Figure 3: Where Most Dignitas Patients Came From (1998-2008)

<sup>22</sup> Ibid

<sup>23</sup> 2009 Mercury Poll Euthanasia - Tasmania. Digital image. Lists O'Plenty. N.p., May 2009. Web. 11 Aug. 2017. <<https://cdn2.listsoplenty.com/listsoplenty-cdn/uploads/2010/09/0905-Mecury-Poll-euthanasia.gif>>.

<sup>24</sup> Also referred to as **suicide tourism** or **euthanasia tourism**

‘rational’ decision.”<sup>25</sup> To Switzerland alone, suicide tourism has doubled since 2009 with most of the tourists being from Germany and the UK. More than half of the patients were women, the age of both male and female patients ranged from 23 to 97 whilst the average was 69, and almost half suffered from neurological diseases; cancer, rheumatic or cardiovascular diseases were also of the conditions. Some patients suffered from more than one.

26 27

#### IV. Key Vocabulary

**Symposium:** a formal meeting in which experts discuss a particular topic.<sup>28</sup> Numerous international and national symposia have been conducted on euthanasia and assisted suicide.

**Terminally Ill (TI):** having a (seemingly) incurable disease that will cause death.<sup>29</sup> Euthanasias are subject to those who are terminally ill.

**Palliative Sedation (PS - sometimes called terminal sedation):** the use of medications to relieve overwhelming suffering by decreasing consciousness to a degree of comfort.<sup>30</sup> While PS is different to euthanasia since it does not kill the patient, it is still relevant in the discussion of since it has become a common practice in hospitals as an option of end-of-life care.

**Medical Ethics:** “the principles of proper professional conduct concerning the rights and duties of the physician, patients, and fellow practitioners, as well as the physician's actions in the care of patients and in relations with their families.”<sup>31</sup> This term is important as euthanasia is subject to dispute in terms of medical ethics.

**Physician:** a person who is “licensed to practice medicine as usually distinguished from surgery.”<sup>32</sup> Physicians are (usually) the ones responsible for performing euthanasia, PAS, PS, etc.

---

<sup>25</sup> "Death Tourism - Euthanasia Holidays." *The Life Resources Charitable Trust*. The Life Resources Charitable Trust, n.d. Web. 11 Aug. 2017. <<http://www.life.org.nz/euthanasia/euthanasiakeyissues/death-tourism/>>.

<sup>26</sup> Wilson, Jacque. "'Suicide Tourism' to Switzerland Has Doubled." *CNN*. Cable News Network, 07 Oct. 2014. Web. 11 Aug. 2017. <<http://edition.cnn.com/2014/08/20/health/suicide-tourism-switzerland/index.html>>.

<sup>27</sup> Dignitas Deaths and Where They Came From (1998-2008). Digital image. *BBC News*. BBC, 23 Sept. 2009. Web. 11 Aug. 2017. <<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8270516.stm>>.

<sup>28</sup> "Symposium." Merriam-Webster.com. Merriam-Webster, n.d. Web. 29 July 2017. <<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/symposium>>.

<sup>29</sup> "Terminally Ill." Merriam-Webster.com. Merriam-Webster, n.d. Web. 31 July 2017. <<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/terminally%20ill>>.

<sup>30</sup> Olsen, Molly L. "Ethical Decision Making With End-of-Life Care: Palliative Sedation and Withholding or Withdrawing Life-Sustaining Treatments." *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*. Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, Oct. 2010. Web. 08 Aug. 2017. <<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2947968/>>.

<sup>31</sup> "medical ethics." *Farlex Partner Medical Dictionary*. 2012. Farlex 9 Aug. 2017. <<http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/medical+ethics>>.

<sup>32</sup> "Physician." Merriam-Webster.com. Merriam-Webster, n.d. Web. 11 Aug. 2017. <<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/physician>>.

## V. Important Events and Chronology

Date	Event
1935	Public health physician, C. Killick Millard, established the Voluntary Euthanasia Legislation Society (VELS) in England
1936	British House of Lords rejects law to legalise euthanasia
January 16, 1938	Charles Francis Potter founds National Society for the Legalisation of Euthanasia
1940	“Nazi Use of Involuntary Euthanasia Changes Public Perception of Euthanasia in the US” <sup>33</sup>
1950	Euthanasia condemned by World Medical Association
1952	The United Nations given petition by British and American Euthanasia Societies requesting to include euthanasia in the Declaration of Human Rights
1968	“Irreversible coma” defined by Harvard Medical School Committee as death criterion
1974	Establishment of the Society for the Right to Die in America
1980	Founding of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies <sup>34</sup>
May 5, 1980	“Pope John Paul II issues the Declaration on Euthanasia, opposing mercy killing but permitting increased use of painkillers and a patient's refusal of extraordinary means for sustaining life” <sup>35</sup>
1995	Rights of Terminally Ill Act passed in Australia legalising voluntary euthanasia <sup>36</sup>

<sup>33</sup> "Historical Timeline History of Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide." *Euthanasia*. ProCon, 23 July 2013. Web. 11 Aug. 2017. <<http://euthanasia.procon.org/view.timeline.php?timelineID=000022>>.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid

<sup>35</sup> Ibid

<sup>36</sup> "Euthanasia & Physician-Assisted Suicide (PAS) around the World." *Euthanasia*. ProCon.org, 20 July 2016. Web. 9 Aug. 2017. <<http://euthanasia.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000136>>.

April 5, 1997	Rights of the Terminally Ill Act overturned <sup>37</sup>
April 2002	“The Netherlands became the first country to legalise euthanasia and assisted suicide” <sup>38</sup>
February 19, 2008	Euthanasia and PAS legalised in Luxembourg
March 2, 2014	Euthanasia legalised for terminally/incurably ill children in Belgium <sup>39</sup>

## VI. Past Resolutions and Treaties

As of now, the United Nations has not passed any resolutions explicitly on the topic of euthanasia.

### **World Medical Association (WMA) Resolution on Euthanasia**<sup>40</sup>

Adopted in October of 1987 by the World Medical Assembly and later reaffirmed in May of 2005 by the WMA Council Session, this resolution opposes euthanasia. It deems euthanasia, as well as physician-assisted suicide unethical and sees that they “must be condemned by the medical profession...However the right to decline medical treatment is a basic right of the patient and the physician does not act unethically even if respecting such a wish results in the death of the patient.” Although the WMA realises that some countries accept active euthanasia and PAS under specific circumstances, it encourages physicians to abstain from participating in such practices.

<https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-resolution-on-euthanasia/>

### **Resolution 67/139: Contributions to the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing**<sup>41</sup>

Costa Rican organisations and associations aimed to protect the rights of the older age group in accordance to the United Nations’ resolution discussed in December of 2012. Discussed in the General Assembly, Resolution 67/139 “called *Towards a comprehensive and integral international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons.*” While the original resolution does not mention euthanasia, this document includes the “right to life and a dignified death.” This includes subsections regarding “right to a dignified and pain-free death” and “prohibition of euthanasia for financial reasons.”

<https://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/documents/fourth/OLIESEnglish.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> Zinn, Christopher. "Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Law Is Overturned." *BMJ*. British Medical Journal Publishing Group, 05 Apr. 1997. Web. 31 July 2017. <<http://www.bmj.com/content/314/7086/993.4>>.

<sup>38</sup> staff, Guardian. "Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Laws around the World." *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 17 July 2014. <[www.theguardian.com/society/2014/jul/17/euthanasia-assisted-suicide-laws-world](http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/jul/17/euthanasia-assisted-suicide-laws-world)>.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid 20

<sup>40</sup> "WMA Resolution on Euthanasia." *The World Medical Association*. The World Medical Association, Inc., 5 Dec. 2002. Web. 11 Aug. 2017. <<https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-resolution-on-euthanasia/>>.

<sup>41</sup> "Resolution 67/139, United Nations General Assembly "Towards a ...." Web. 11 Aug. 2017. <<https://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/documents/fourth/OLIESEnglish.pdf>>.

### **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)**<sup>42</sup>

In 2015, the ICCPR was discussed by the UN in a conference in Geneva. The treaty was created as a reaction to Nazi brutality during the 1960s and ratified by 74 countries and 168 parties. Article 6 which states that “every human being has the inherent right to life” was the topic of disagreement. It was argued that a certain interpretation would provide exception for abortion, euthanasia, as well as suicide, therefore allowing signatories to practice the three. Both pro-life and ori-death groups submitted their comments and positions on the article. “Numerous pro-life organizations based their submissions to the Committee on science and existing UN jurisprudence.” Debate arose as to whether the right to life begins prenatally or not, abortion and euthanasia being an exception to the article, and such. This discussion questions whether a new treaty should be made, the old clarified or amended, or rather kept as is.

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/medical-waste-disposal-company-stops-doing-business-with-many-planned-paren>

### **VII. Failed Solution Attempts**

Creating a legal status about euthanasia for either position (pro-life or pro-death) across members of the United Nations has proven to fail. To argue for or against euthanasia as a whole is seemingly inefficient and ineffective.<sup>43</sup>

Member states such as Finland, Switzerland, and Germany legalise Physician-Assisted Suicide whilst Euthanasia remains illegal.<sup>44</sup> This does not solve the issue of euthanasia as a study conducted by dutch scientists published in 2000 showed that PAS often goes wrong, hence calling for the use of active euthanasia (if allowed by the physician).<sup>45</sup>

Although “prevention measures have included, among others, explicit consent by the person requesting euthanasia, mandatory reporting of all cases, administration only by physicians (with the exception of Switzerland), and consultation by a second physician,” there has been evidence that such is often ignored without consequence. Cases of euthanasia go unreported around half of the time, let alone the abidance of the conditions of consent, professionalism, or terminal illness.<sup>46</sup>

---

<sup>42</sup> Baklinski, Pete. "UN Considers Reinterpreting 'right to Life' to Allow Exceptions for Abortion and Euthanasia." *LifeSiteNews*. LifeSiteNews.com, 15 July 2015. Web. 11 Aug. 2017. <<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/un-considers-reinterpreting-right-to-life-to-allow-exceptions-for-abortion>>.

<sup>43</sup> "History of euthanasia." Web. Accessed 11 Aug. 2017. <<http://www.bgsg.bury.sch.uk/assets/Uploads/Files/General/Euthanasia-Briefing-Papers.docx>>.

<sup>44</sup> "Euthanasia & Physician-Assisted Suicide (PAS) around the World." *Euthanasia*. ProCon.org, 20 July 2016. Web. 9 Aug. 2017. <<http://euthanasia.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000136>>.

<sup>45</sup> "Complications with Assisted Suicide." *Complications with Assisted Suicide*. Internet Solutions Group, n.d. Web. 11 Aug. 2017. <<http://www.life.org.nz/euthanasia/euthanasiakeyissues/complications-and-euthanasia/>>.

<sup>46</sup> Pereira, J. "Legalizing Euthanasia or Assisted Suicide: The Illusion of Safeguards and Controls." *Current Oncology*. Multimed Inc., Apr. 2011. Web. 11 Aug. 2017. <<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3070710/>>.

## VIII. Possible Solutions

- Raise awareness about human rights related to the topic of euthanasia, and inform people of the options they have regarding end-of-life care
- Promote, create, and strengthen end-of-life decision making services (similar to suicide hotlines or 122)
- Sort out inconsistencies in terms of classification of illness severity
- Discuss the issue of consent and who it belongs to (parent/guardian or child? If child, starting what age?)
- Amend national/international laws for the effect of resolving “death tourism”
- Ensure that physicians are mutually abiding by agreed upon decision
- Address financial issue of long-term treatment and expensive medicine
- Provide therapy, or something of the sort, for those who are liable to consider euthanasia to treat the feeling of being a burden or overly dependent on others for survival

## IX. Useful Links

- **Exit International**

*“Exit International is a leading end-of-life choices information & advocacy organisation”*

"Exit International | About Us - Assisted Suicide, Voluntary Euthanasia Law, End of Life Matters."

*Exit International About Us Comments.* N.p., n.d. Web. 31 July 2017.

<<https://exitinternational.net/about-exit/history/>>.

- **Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Laws Around the World**

Includes a briefing of the history of Euthanasia in the Netherlands, France, USA, Switzerland, Germany, and Belgium.

staff, Guardian. “Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Laws around the World.” *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 17 July 2014,

[www.theguardian.com/society/2014/jul/17/euthanasia-assisted-suicide-laws-world](http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/jul/17/euthanasia-assisted-suicide-laws-world).

- **Euthanasia & Physician-Assisted Suicide (PAS) around the World**

*“Legal status in 28 countries from Australia to Uruguay”*

"Euthanasia & Physician-Assisted Suicide (PAS) around the World." *Euthanasia*. ProCon.org, 20 July 2016. Web. 9 Aug. 2017.

<<http://euthanasia.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000136>>.

- **10 Countries Where Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Are Legal**

Influential, Most. "10 Countries Where Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Are Legal." *The Richest*. The Premium Network, 25 Oct. 2014. Web. 9 Aug. 2017.

<<http://www.therichest.com/rich-list/most-influential/10-countries-where-euthanasia-and-assisted-suicide-are-legal/>>.

- **Assisted Dying: What Does The Law in Different Countries Say?**

An account on euthanasia in the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Colombia, USA, and Canada

Lewis, Penney. "Assisted Dying: What Does the Law in Different Countries Say?" *BBC News*. BBC, 06 Oct. 2015. Web. 08 Aug. 2017.

<<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-34445715>>.

- **Jewish Medical Ethics: Euthanasia: The Approach of the Courts in Israel & the Application of Jewish Law**

Neeman, Yaakov, and Eliot Sacks. "Jewish Medical Ethics: Euthanasia: The Approach of the Courts in Israel & the Application of Jewish Law." *Jewish Virtual Library*. American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise, n.d. Web. 10 Aug. 2017.

<<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/euthanasia-the-approach-of-the-courts-in-israel-and-the-application-of-jewish-law#D6>>.

- **UN Considers Euthanasia and New Treaty on Ageing**

Includes the positions of countries such as Israel, India, and Japan

Orlandi, Ph.D. Marianna, J.D. Stefano Gennarini, and Ph.D. Rebecca Oas. "UN Considers Euthanasia and New Treaty on Aging." *C-Fam*. C-Fam, 29 Sept. 2011. Web. 11 Aug. 2017.

<[https://c-fam.org/friday\\_fax/un-considers-euthanasia-and-new-treaty-on-aging/](https://c-fam.org/friday_fax/un-considers-euthanasia-and-new-treaty-on-aging/)>.

- **Legalising Euthanasia or Assisted Suicide: the Illusion of Safeguards and Controls**

Elaborates on the third point mentioned in the Failed Solution Attempts section. Explains why laws and safeguards are usually of no use and often go ignored. Uses countries such as Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, and Luxembourg to explain argument.

Pereira, J. "Legalizing Euthanasia or Assisted Suicide: The Illusion of Safeguards and Controls." *Current Oncology*. Multimed Inc., Apr. 2011. Web. 11 Aug. 2017.

<<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3070710/>>.

- **Euthanasia: Right to Life Vs Right to Die**

Explains both sides of the argument; reasoning for being for or against euthanasia.

Math, Suresh Bada, and Santosh K. Chaturvedi. "Euthanasia: Right to Life vs Right to Die." *The Indian Journal of Medical Research*. Medknow Publications & Media Pvt Ltd, Dec. 2012. Web. 11 Aug. 2017. <<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3612319/>>.

## X. Works Cited

Baklinski, Pete. "UN Considers Reinterpreting 'right to Life' to Allow Exceptions for Abortion and Euthanasia." *LifeSiteNews*. LifeSiteNews.com, 15 July 2015. Web. 11 Aug. 2017.

<<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/un-considers-reinterpreting-right-to-life-to-allow-exceptions-for-abortion>>.

Brain, Statistic. "Euthanasia Statistics." *Euthanasia Statistics*. Statistic Brain, 22 Oct. 2016. Web. 11 Aug. 2017. <<http://www.statisticbrain.com/euthanasia-statistics/>>.

Butcher, Tim. "Israelis to Be Allowed Euthanasia by Machine." *The Telegraph*. Telegraph Media Group, 8 Dec. 2005. Web. 10 Aug. 2017.

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/israel/1505018/Israelis-to-be-allowed-euthanasia-by-machine.html>>.

"Complications with Assisted Suicide." *Complications with Assisted Suicide*. Internet Solutions Group, n.d. Web. 11 Aug. 2017.

<<http://www.life.org.nz/euthanasia/euthanasiakeyissues/complications-and-euthanasia/>>.

D, Doron. "Israeli Dying Patient Act: Physician Knowledge and Attitudes." *NCBI*. PubMed, Dec. 2014. Web. 10 Aug. 2017.

"Death Tourism - Euthanasia Holidays." *The Life Resources Charitable Trust*. The Life Resources Charitable Trust, n.d. Web. 11 Aug. 2017.

<<http://www.life.org.nz/euthanasia/euthanasiakeyissues/death-tourism/>>.

Dignitas Deaths and Where They Came From (1998-2008). Digital image. *BBC News*. BBC, 23 Sept. 2009. Web. 11 Aug. 2017. <<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8270516.stm>>.

<<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23660598>>.

"euthanasia". *The American Heritage® New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy, Third Edition*. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2005. 8 Jul. 2017.

<Dictionary.com <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/euthanasia>>.

"Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide." *NHS Choices*. Gov.uk, 11 Aug. 2011. Web. 18 July 2017.

<<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Euthanasiaandassistedsuicide/Pages/Introduction.aspx>>.

"Euthanasia Why People Would Opt For Euthanasia Law Medical Essay." LawTeacher.

LawTeacher.net, November 2013. Web. 11 August 2017.

<<https://www.lawteacher.net/free-law-essays/medical-law/euthanasia-why-people-would-opt-for-euthanasia-law-medical-essay.php?cref=1>>.

"Euthanasia & Physician-Assisted Suicide (PAS) around the World." *Euthanasia*. ProCon.org, 20

July 2016. Web. 9 Aug. 2017.

<<http://euthanasia.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000136>>.

Even, Dan. "In Israel, Assisted Suicide Is Not Painless." *Haaretz*. Haaretz Daily Newspaper, 3

Dec. 2012. Web. 11 Aug. 2017.

<<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/in-israel-assisted-suicide-is-not-painless.premium-1.481982>>.

"Exit Action." *Exit International* | » *Exit Action*. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 July 2017.

<<https://exitinternational.net/exit-action/>>.

"Exit International | About Us - Assisted Suicide, Voluntary Euthanasia Law, End of Life

Matters." *Exit International About Us Comments*. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 July 2017.

<<https://exitinternational.net/about-exit/history/>>.

"Exit International | Philip Nitschke." *Philip Nitschke*. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 July 2017.

<<https://exitinternational.net/about-exit/dr-philip-nitschke/>>.

"History of euthanasia." Web. Accessed 11 Aug. 2017.

<<http://www.bsgg.bury.sch.uk/assets/Uploads/Files/General/Euthanasia-Briefing-Papers.doc>  
x>.

"Historical Timeline History of Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide." *Euthanasia*.

ProCon, 23 July 2013. Web. 11 Aug. 2017.

<<http://euthanasia.procon.org/view.timeline.php?timelineID=000022>>.

"Is Physician-assisted Suicide the Same as Euthanasia?" *Is Physician-assisted Suicide the Same as Euthanasia? | The World Federation of Right to Die Societies*. The World Federation of Right to Die Societies, n.d. Web. 29 July 2017.

<<http://www.worldrtd.net/qanda/physician-assisted-suicide-same-euthanasia>>.

Lewis, Penney. "Assisted Dying: What Does the Law in Different Countries Say?" *BBC News*.

BBC, 06 Oct. 2015. Web. 08 Aug. 2017.

<<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-34445715>>.

Math, Suresh Bada, and Santosh K. Chaturvedi. "Euthanasia: Right to Life vs Right to Die." *The Indian Journal of Medical Research*. Medknow Publications & Media Pvt Ltd, Dec. 2012.

Web. 11 Aug. 2017. <<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3612319/>>.

"medical ethics." *Farlex Partner Medical Dictionary*. 2012. Farlex 9 Aug. 2017.

<<http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/medical+ethics>>.

Olsen, Molly L. "Ethical Decision Making With End-of-Life Care: Palliative Sedation and Withholding or Withdrawing Life-Sustaining Treatments." *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*. Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, Oct. 2010. Web. 08 Aug. 2017.

<<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2947968/>>.

Pereira, J. "Legalizing Euthanasia or Assisted Suicide: The Illusion of Safeguards and Controls."

*Current Oncology*. Multimed Inc., Apr. 2011. Web. 11 Aug. 2017.

<<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3070710/>>.

"Physician." Merriam-Webster.com. Merriam-Webster, n.d. Web. 11 Aug. 2017.

<<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/physician>>.

"Resolution 67/139, United Nations General Assembly "Towards a ...." Web. 11 Aug. 2017.

<<https://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/documents/fourth/OLIESEnglish.pdf>>.

staff, Guardian. "Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Laws around the World." *The Guardian*,

Guardian News and Media, 17 July 2014.

<[www.theguardian.com/society/2014/jul/17/euthanasia-assisted-suicide-laws-world](http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/jul/17/euthanasia-assisted-suicide-laws-world)>.

Seale, C., and J. Addington-Hall. "Euthanasia: Why People Want to Die Earlier." *Social Science*

*& Medicine (1982)*. U.S. National Library of Medicine, Sept. 1994. Web. 11 Aug. 2017.

<<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7973864>>.

"Symposium." Merriam-Webster.com. Merriam-Webster, n.d. Web. 29 July 2017.

<<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/symposium>>.

"Terminally Ill." Merriam-Webster.com. Merriam-Webster, n.d. Web. 31 July 2017.

<<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/terminally%20ill>>.

Wilson, Jacque. "'Suicide Tourism' to Switzerland Has Doubled." *CNN*. Cable News Network, 07

Oct. 2014. Web. 11 Aug. 2017.

<<http://edition.cnn.com/2014/08/20/health/suicide-tourism-switzerland/index.html>>.

"WMA Resolution on Euthanasia." *The World Medical Association*. The World Medical Association, Inc., 5 Dec. 2002. Web. 11 Aug. 2017.

<<https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-resolution-on-euthanasia/>>.

Zinn, Christopher. "Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Law Is Overturned." *BMJ*. British Medical Journal Publishing Group, 05 Apr. 1997. Web. 31 July 2017.

<<http://www.bmj.com/content/314/7086/993.4>>.

"19 Great Voluntary Euthanasia Statistics." *Medical Articles and Infographics*. Health Research Funding, 4 Jan. 2015. Web. 11 Aug. 2017.

<<http://healthresearchfunding.org/19-great-voluntary-euthanasia-statistics/>>.

*2009 Mercury Poll Euthanasia - Tasmania*. Digital image. *Lists O'Plenty*. N.p., May 2009. Web. 11 Aug. 2017.

<<https://cdn2.listsoplenty.com/listsoplenty-cdn/uploads/2010/09/0905-Mecury-Poll-euthanasia.gif>>.