

Dear

I am contacting you as a very concerned constituent to ask you to speak and vote in opposition to Kim Leadbeater's assisted suicide Bill.

I am deeply worried about the risks that legalising assisted suicide would bring to vulnerable groups, particularly in light of the significant pressures that already exist on the NHS and a recent Marie Curie report. I am a passionate advocate of assisted living, not assisted dying. It is my firm view that investing in palliative care is a better way to support people suffering at the end of life.

Killing is always wrong, and suicide goes entirely against our natural instincts. To permit legally assisted killing and suicide is to cross a symbolic line. Like using a nuclear weapon, there would be no turning back.

I kindly ask you to consider the following four reasons why any change in the law to facilitate assisted suicide is gravely immoral and a danger to society:

1. The option of assisted suicide puts intolerable pressure on the most vulnerable, upon the sick, the elderly, the disabled, the dying, tempting them to feel they are a burden – and a financial drain – on their family and others. The right to die would inevitably become a duty to die - and in time the right to make another die.
2. To legalise euthanasia and assisted suicide would undermine palliative care – Britain is a world-leader - and the work of care-homes. It could spell the end of care homes as we know them, since it would be cheaper and less trouble to kill someone rather than to care for them. Caring for the dying, looking after them, is true “dignity in dying” - not a lethal injection or a Sarco pod.
3. Assisted suicide places an unacceptable and immoral demand on medical staff, doctors and nurses. It would make them accessories in killing. It would also undermine the trust we would normally have in them. It's easy to imagine a future in which doctors advise patients to seek suicide rather than treatment.
4. Once the legislation is passed, like a line in the sand, it will keep creeping forward, expanding to cover more and more categories of persons. There are no limits. Fixed safeguards are unworkable. No government could guarantee that there will not be ‘mission-creep’. In fact, mission-creep is happening in every other jurisdiction where it is legal. In Canada, for instance, 5% of deaths are now by lethal injection. In other words, suicide, free on the NHS, would in time become socially acceptable, normal. Please reassure me that you will oppose this legislation and instead support wider access to improved palliative care.

Thank you for your consideration and for all you do. I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely