



U N H R C

Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

Topic: Euthanasia

Chairboard: Su Kırık, Efe Körezli

Chair Letters

Dear delegates,

Welcome to TBMUN'20. My name is Su and I will be your President Chair in the UNHRC committee (United Nations Human Rights Council). Currently, I am studying at Ted Bodrum College and I am in 11th grade. As a member of the chairboard, I am looking forward to meeting you and hearing your ideas for solving international problems related to our topic. We have expended a lot of effort on this conference with our prosperous academic team. I really hope that you can see this conference as a chance to become acquainted with global issues and having fun while meeting new people and making friends.

Sincerely;

SU KIRIK

President Chair of UNHRC

Most prestigious delegates of UNHRC,

It is my extreme pleasure to welcome all of you to TBMUN'20. This year with both our academic and organization team's outstanding efforts, I can guarantee you that you won't forget this exquisite conference. It will be my first time serving as a chairperson and is a great honour to be serving at this well-respected committee. I am more than sure that we will have fruitful debates in order to solve the issues of 'euthanasia'. I can't wait to meet all of you!

Best regards;

EFE KÖREZLİ

Deputy Chair of UNHRC

introduction:

Euthanasia: The painless killing of a patient suffering from an incurable and painful disease or in an irreversible coma.

It is necessary to remember that there two types of euthanasia: Active and Passive.

1. In active euthanasia, a person directly deliberately causes the patient's death *for example* through lethal injection or medication.
2. In passive euthanasia they don't directly take the patient's life, they just allow them to die. This can be by withdrawing or withholding treatment *for example*: by withdrawing food or turning off life support.

voluntary and non-voluntary euthanasia:

- **Non-Voluntary Euthanasia:** The person cannot make a decision or cannot make their wishes known. This includes cases where:
 1. the person is in a coma
 2. the person is too young (a very young baby)
 3. the person is mentally retarded to a very severe extent
 4. the person is severely brain-damaged etc.
- **Voluntary euthanasia:** is when the patient wishes to die by their own will
- **assisted suicide:** suicide effected with the assistance of another person, especially the taking of lethal drugs provided by a doctor for the purpose of a patient suffering from a terminal illness or incurable condition.

current situation of the topic:

Currently, voluntary euthanasia and/or doctor-assisted suicide is legally available in Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Switzerland, and in six US States (California, Oregon, Montana, Colorado, Vermont and Washington State).

Assisted suicide is legal in Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Finland, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium Japan, Albania, Canada, and in the US states of Washington, Oregon, Vermont, Montana, and California. However, in these countries, it is illegal for euthanasia to be used with malicious intent.

Assisted suicide	Ending someone's life painlessly when they are unable to ask, but when there is good reason for thinking they would want death, e.g. switching off a life support machine
Euthanasia	The idea that doctors must do everything in their power to keep a patient alive even though they are dying.
Non-voluntary euthanasia	The belief that it is a basic human entitlement to have control of when to end your life.
Voluntary euthanasia	Providing a seriously ill person with the means to commit suicide
Doctrine of double effect	e.g. to lose control of your bodily functions and be totally dependant on others
Striving to keep alive	The idea that if I take an action to achieve one effect, knowing that it will produce another, I cannot be blamed for the second effect e.g. give large dose of pain killers to relieve pain, knowing that it will shorten a dying person's life.
Quality of life	An easy and gentle death
The loss of human dignity	The standard of your life, the amount of pain you are in.
The right to die	The situation where someone dying in pain asks another person to end his/her life painlessly.

Pro-Euthanasia Arguments

-Arguments In Favor Of Euthanasia

*Arguments in favor of euthanasia can be divided into three categories

Arguments based on rights

1. People have an explicit right to die.
2. Death is a private matter and if there is no harm to others, the state and other people have no right to interfere

Practical Arguments

1. It makes regulating euthanasia easier if it is acknowledged.
2. Allowing people to die may free up scarce health resources.
3. Euthanasia happens anyway, better to make it legal and regulate it properly.

Philosophical Arguments

1. Euthanasia satisfies the criterion that moral rules must be universalisable.
2. Is death a bad thing?
3. Is it for anyone else to decide that the patient should go on suffering?

-Arguments Against Euthanasia

Ethical Arguments

1. Euthanasia weakens society's respect for the sanctity of life.
2. Accepting euthanasia accepts that some lives (those of the disabled or sick) are worth less than others.
3. Euthanasia might not be in a person's best interest.
4. Euthanasia affects other people's lives, not just those of the patient

Practical Arguments

1. Proper palliative care makes euthanasia unnecessary.
2. There is no way of properly regulating euthanasia.
3. Allowing euthanasia will lead to less good care for the terminally ill.
4. Allowing euthanasia undermines the commitment of doctors and nurses to saving lives.
5. Euthanasia may become a cost-effective way to treat the terminally ill.
6. Allowing euthanasia will discourage the search for new cures and treatments for the terminally ill.
7. Euthanasia undermines the motivation to provide good care for the dying and good pain relief.
8. Euthanasia gives too much power to doctors.
9. Euthanasia exposes vulnerable people to pressure to end their lives.
10. Moral pressure on elderly relatives by selfish families.
11. Moral pressure to free up medical sources.
12. Patients who are abandoned by their families may feel euthanasia is the only solution.

Historical Arguments

1. Voluntary euthanasia is the start of a slippery slope that leads to involuntary euthanasia and the killing of people who are thought undesirable.

Religious Arguments

1. Euthanasia is against the word and will of God.
2. Suffering may have value.

the slippery slope argument

-In general form, this argument says that if we allow something relatively harmless today, we may start a trend that results in something currently unthinkable becoming accepted.

-The slippery slope argument is used in discussing euthanasia, and similar topics. For example, people worry that if voluntary euthanasia were to be made legal, it would not be long before involuntary euthanasia would start to happen.

Countries policies about euthanasia

The first countries to legalize euthanasia were the **Netherlands** (2001) and **Belgium** (2002).

Switzerland

Switzerland allows physician-assisted suicide without a minimum age requirement, diagnosis or symptom state. However, assisted suicide is deemed illegal if the motivations are “selfish” for example, if someone assisting the death stands to inherit earlier, or if they don’t want the burden of caring for a sick person.

Euthanasia is not legal in the country

About **1.5%** of Swiss deaths are the result of assisted suicide

In 2018, 221 people traveled to the Swiss clinic Dignitas for assisted suicide. Of these, 87 were from Germany, 31 from France and 24 from the UK.

Netherlands

Euthanasia and assisted suicide are legal in the Netherlands in cases where someone is experiencing unbearable suffering and there is no chance of it improving. Children as young as 12 can request assisted dying, but parental consent is needed for those under 16.

Belgium

Belgium allows euthanasia and assisted suicide for those with intolerable suffering and no prospect of improvement. If a patient is not terminally ill, there is a one month waiting period before euthanasia can be performed. Belgium has no age limit for children, but they must have a terminal illness to meet the criteria for approval.

Islamic World

According to the Muslim belief, euthanasia and suicide are not seen as justifiable exceptions to the killing rule in Islam. While the western part of the world may continue to legalize the practice, it is unlikely that the prominent Muslim world will follow the instance. When looking at the hadiths that contain the words and behaviors of Hz. Muhammad -the secondary source of Islamic law- the hadiths which are considered containing topics similar to euthanasia are implying that euthanasia is definitely forbidden.

catholic church

The Catholic Church has many times emphasized its strong stance against euthanasia, stating that the only one who should be able to take life is God. Doctors should rather focus on either trying to heal the patient or comfort their patients in their last hours. Ending the life of a patient suffering from excruciating pain with the patient's request is incompatible with Christian teaching. When the Bible is examined there is no statement that the Bible prohibits euthanasia. On the other hand, there are statements about the holiness of life and the importance of the Creator. According to this information it was interpreted by Christian clerics that euthanasia is forbidden.

The UK

Both euthanasia and assisted suicide are illegal under English law. The maximum penalty is life imprisonment. Any person found to be assisting suicide is breaking the law and can be convicted of assisting suicide or attempting to do so. Between 2003 and 2006 Lord Joffe made four attempts to introduce bills that would have legalized voluntary euthanasia- all were rejected by the UK parliament. According to section 2 of the suicide act 1961, as originally enacted, provided that it was an offense to "aid, abet, counsel or procure the suicide of another" and that a person who committed this offense was liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding fourteen years.

Luxembourg

Seventy-one people have chosen to end their lives through euthanasia since Luxembourg legalized the controversial practice a decade ago, according to a government report.

Luxembourg passed a law in 2009 legalizing euthanasia and assisted suicide for those suffering from incurable illnesses causing unbearable physical or psychological pain. Of 71 cases, only two people have so far opted for assisted suicide in Luxembourg. Luxembourg is among only a small number of European countries to have legalized euthanasia and assisted suicide, including Belgium and the Netherlands.

USA

In the United States, while active euthanasia is illegal throughout the U.S., several states now offer legal assisted dying. Oregon, Washington, Vermont, California, Colorado, Washington DC, Hawaii, New Jersey, Maine and Montana all have laws or court rulings allowing doctor-assisted suicide for terminally ill patients. Doctors can write patients a prescription for fatal drugs, but a healthcare professional must be present when they are administered.

New Zealand

A bill legalizing voluntary euthanasia passed its second vote in parliament in June by 70 votes to 50. However, a third and final reading is still required before the bill is passed into law, and it is far from guaranteed that it will succeed. For now, both euthanasia and assisted suicide remain illegal.

- Even though the bill on euthanasia is still not been passed in parliament, Newshub Reid Research poll declared the vast majority of New Zealand nationals support euthanasia.

Germany

Passive euthanasia is legal in Germany if the patient has requested it. On 17 May 2014, the Federal Constitutional Court legalized passive euthanasia by means of the withdrawal of life support to patients who request euthanasia. Forms of active euthanasia, including the lethal compound administration, are illegal. On 6 November 2015, the German Parliament passed a bill legalizing assisted suicide as long as it is done with “altruistic motives”.

Canada

In Canada, passive euthanasia has been legal for quite some time, but active euthanasia was previously prohibited as a form of culpable homicide up until January 6th, 2016 with a

supreme court decision (Carter v Canada). It ruled that adults with grievous and irremediable medical conditions are entitled to physician-assisted suicide.

- In Quebec, only euthanasia is allowed.

Colombia

Terminal patients can request voluntary euthanasia in Colombia, and the first such death happened in 2015. An independent committee must approve the request for assisted dying.

PR China

Articles 232 and 233 of the Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China forbids euthanasia. There was an attempt to legalize it in 1994 by legislators from the National People's Congress but it did not pass.

Some Parts of Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Timeline

1980S

1983: In USA, Baby Jane Doe, a newborn baby with Down's Syndrome, is starved at the request of her parents and with court approval in spite of many parents wanting to adopt her

1990S

1991: The Right to Die Society of Canada is founded to advocate the repeal of laws that forbid euthanasia and assisted suicide.

1992: January: Dr. Jack Kevorkian charged with murder in the US. He's been killing people with his death machine for at least five years. He is acquitted repeatedly after further charges over the years.

1992: Sue Rodriguez of BC, suffering from ALS, enters into an agreement with John Hofsess (president of the Right to Die Society) whereby he agrees to assist Sue in terminating her life. She petitions the BC court for the legal right to have assistance in ending her life, asking the court to find section 241 of the Criminal Code unconstitutional because it contravenes her "right" to control what happens to her body. Her petition is denied. The appeal is made to BC Supreme Court.

1993: February: Ian Waddell (NDP) MP introduces a bill that urges the government to decriminalize assisting a suicide.

1997: January: A woman with a rare form of skin cancer becomes the second person to die under Australia's assisted-suicide law. Dr. Philip Nitschke hooked her up to an intravenous line, and had her

use his "death by laptop" computer program. When she clicked a "yes" button on the laptop, the lethal dose was administered.

2000S

2000:March 20: A retired Austrian doctor accused in the Nazi-ordered deaths of handicapped children during the Second World War goes on trial. Heinrich Gross faces charges of complicity to murder in a child euthanasia program ordered by the Nazis at the Vienna clinic where he was in charge. He is charged in the deaths of nine handicapped children in the summer of 1944.

2000:November 28: The Dutch parliament approves a bill to allow euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide making it the first country to formally legalize the practice. The bill passed by a vote of 104-40.

2003:January 28: The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ontario Government's Ministry of Culture, has provided the pro-euthanasia group 'Dying with Dignity' \$177,800 over three years to create a pilot counseling program in Toronto. However, counseling to commit suicide is illegal in Canada.

2008:Luxembourg legalizes physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia.

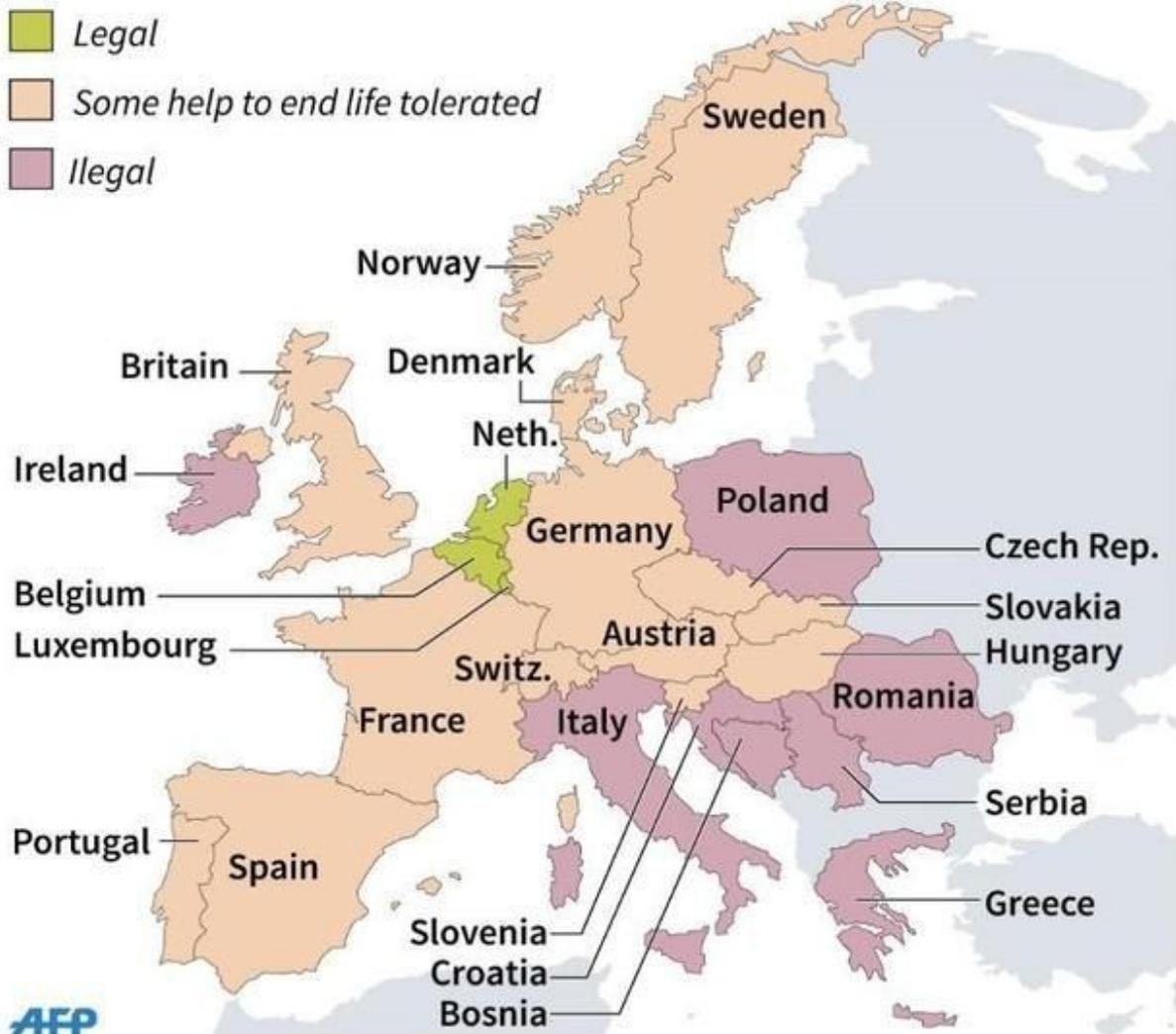
2008:November 4: Washington State passes a "Death with Dignity" act, allowing terminally ill adults to request lethal doses of medication from physicians. The law only applies to residents of the state who have less than six months to live. The law passed with 58% of the votes.

2010S

2014:February: Belgium becomes the first country to remove age limits on euthanasia, allowing children to be killed.

2016:June: Canada legalizes euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Euthanasia law in the European Union



Further information:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legality_of_euthanasia#Colombia

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