

FORUM: United Nations Human Rights Council

QUESTION OF: Euthanasia

MAIN SUBMITTER: Republic of Zambia

CO-SUBMITTERS: Iran, Tanzania, Switzerland, New Zealand, Australia,

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,

Expresses its dissatisfaction about the question of euthanasia,

Bearing in mind that getting rid of a human life undermines the dignity that makes people distinctly human,

Takes into consideration that euthanasia is a violation of the sanctity of human dignity,

Notes that the World Health Organization (WHO) defines palliative care as “an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problem associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual”,

Observing that palliative care makes euthanasia unnecessary,

Believing that all doctors must follow the Hippocratic Oath, “I will give no deadly medicine to any one if asked, nor suggest any such counsel”,

Taking note that in many states, where corruption is still strong, legalizing euthanasia would lead to the appearance of many violations,

Further observing that one of the nations which has legalized euthanasia has the highest governmental public long-term care expenditure in the world, as displaced in

the *Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)* outlook of June 2013,

Noting with deep concern that the act of euthanasia goes against Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 6, target 8, indicator 21 and 23 and MDG 4, target 5, indicator 13, if protocols, such as the Groningen protocol, are instituted in more countries,

Further noting that 181 UN member states have not legalized assisted suicide and euthanasia or decriminalized euthanasia,

Affirming that euthanasia is considered “an act of murder” in many UN member states,

Fully aware that euthanasia is a subject of huge disagreement and one of the most controversial debates in the UN,

Noting with satisfaction that no Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) have yet recognized euthanasia as a medical aid,

Deeply concerned that private corporations have found an income in terminating a human being’s life,

Convinced that legalizing voluntary euthanasia would unleash psychological or sociological forces which would lead to a dramatic increase in involuntary euthanasia,

Alarmed by the facts that have become public in the Rummelink Report from the Netherlands as of 1991, such as the fact that 1040 citizens of the Netherlands were subject to involuntary euthanasia in one year,

Expecting legislation of euthanasia in More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) with expensive health care, will force the poorer families to choose euthanasia instead of expensive palliative care or other care against death-threatening diseases, since that is what the families have the funds for,

Emphasizing that euthanasia is in conflict with basic ethical principles of medical practice as stated by The World Medical Association (WMA),

Convinced that fighting euthanasia across the world will increase the life quality and security of all citizens of the world, especially the older citizens, children and disabled people,

1. Calls upon all United Nations (UN) member states to prohibit euthanasia by international law in any shape or form seeing that all human beings have the right to life and security of person, as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights article 3, and euthanasia is an ill-suited mechanism in a world with the medical knowledge that this global society possesses;

2. Requests the creation of the United Nations Committee on Life Encouragement (UNCLE) in order to:
 - a. ensure that all citizens on the face on the earth will continue to have life quality as they age,
 - b. protect people that are deemed a burden on the society from euthanasia and all other activities that conflict with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other similar documents;

3. Further requests the establishment of the United Nations Palliative Care Organization (UNPCO) in order to:
 - a. strengthen UN member states', especially LEDCs, efforts in developing and sustaining palliative care services and institutions in their countries,
 - b. financially assist UN member states, especially LEDCs, in need of funds to be able to develop and sustain palliative care for their citizens,
 - c. give advice on palliative sedation to all health ministries and institutions in the world that currently, or in the future, are struggling with successfully putting palliative sedation in place,

- d. encourage all nations currently allowing euthanasia or assisted suicide to remove funds from these activities to institutions with palliative care, as defined by The World Health Organization (WHO), such as hospices,
 - e. ensure that illegal euthanasia activities are not performed in any country, by assisting UN member states with locating and terminating the people or organizations performing such actions;
4. Strongly encourages to disallow UN member states to terminate citizens of other UN member states lives or give these citizens, citizenship in a specific country solely for the purpose that they can take their own life in that country;
5. Urges all nations to seek to fulfill the MDGs, especially 4 and 6 on this topic;
6. Suggests that member states and NGOs create The United Nations Anti-Self-Suicide Council (UNASSC):
 - a. Which would prevent people from performing self-harm decisions or closely related people to make decisions for patients with permanent diseases,
 - b. Would include cooperation with educational systems, in order to inform and prevent young people about this issue,
 - c. Finally, yet importantly, would work as an advising cooperation for medical institutions and other health services;
7. Further recommends that this resolution be brought in by the year 2018:
 - a. A UN hearing should be held every six months to evaluate the progression of this law,
 - b. Suggests that the international criminal court be accountable for high profile prosecutions of the leaders of offending nations,
 - c. Suggests that rendition be used to bring offending leaders to International Court;

8. Reemphasizes that every country be included into this law, regardless of their beliefs by making all countries subject to the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.