

From: [Patricia Loughlan](#)
To: [LSIC](#)
Subject: General Public Submission on Assisted Dying
Date: Sunday, 26 July 2015 7:50:02 PM

I am a person with a strong interest in the advancement of the social movement in support of assisted dying. I am interested in broadening the public debate beyond the frequent and tragically moving personal stories into the discourse of human rights, a discourse which has helped to bring about so much beneficial social change in other areas in recent decades.

The right to control the moment and means of one's own death in the face of intolerable suffering is now rapidly emerging as one of the fundamental human rights which The Universal Declaration of Human Rights already recognizes as essential to the 'inherent dignity' of all human beings. The guarantee of this right will and should be a duty which the state owes to its citizens to provide and protect. It is arguably already present in inchoate form in the Declaration in the recognised rights to freedom from torture and freedom of conscience and religion.

When religious groups weigh into this debate with their rules and moral vision being applicable not just to their own adherents but to everyone, specific religious views are being imposed upon those who do not share them and who may indeed view them as being based upon mythology.

I should note that I am in fact a practising Catholic, but I also believe that the Catholic church is frequently wrong in its doctrines and practices. (I think we all remember the Inquisition.) It is wrong on this issue and should, in my view, as should your inquiry, support this important human right.

Kind regards,

Patricia Loughlan

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