Dear Sir/Madam,

Euthanasia - Modern Health Care?

No-one wants to suffer - no-one wants to see their loved ones suffer. The concept of dignity is readily misunderstood and mis-used. Our dignity, our great value as a human person, is found in our very being. It will involve living through the dying process in a way which reflects our great value as a human being, accepting the love and care of those around us and waiting for death to come naturally.

One person facilitating the death of another is a matter of great concern.

Being Dutch, in the Netherlands, it has been practically impossible to frame and enforce safeguards.

Once doctors become guardians of death, as well as life, they can no longer promise to always protect the life of their patients.

True compassion leads to sharing another's pain.

To promote palliative care also helps to protect one's own humanity.

On a personal note, I was with my mother, through her suffering and death. I saw her courage, her dignity, her love, her trust, her wisdom, her values, all those she lived, all through her life and were severely tested. She was and is my beautiful mother.

Yours sincerely -eline von der Straaten