Submission.
Legal and Social Issues Committee.

Submission presented by-
John Francis McCormack.

This submission is presented in regards to ‘end of live choices’.

Legalising Euthanasia.

Legalising euthanasia or assisted suicide would undermine existing palliative care programs. Euthanasia and assisted suicide are against the codes of ethics of peak medical bodies. Countries where euthanasia has been legalised have shown that safety guards can never be adequate.

Euthanasia law is the creation of legal machinery to kill. It disqualifies the idea of ‘sanctity of life’ and promotes a vague and shifting concept called ‘quality of life’ thus has an impact on the old and the vulnerable. It also has an impact on the young including an upsurge of youth suicide.

Doctor-Patient Relationship.

Doctors are held in high esteem as the protectors of life. Doctors who kill will lose respect for life. With euthanasia widely practiced this attitude will permeate society. Medical staff will be more easily coerced to kill patients. Thus, as the House of Lords states “the issue of euthanasia is one in which the interests of the individual cannot be separated from the interests of the society as a whole.”

Slippery Slope Argument.

Netherlands euthanasia has moved from voluntary to non-voluntary, from the terminally ill to the physically sick, to the depressed and the lonely, to the unconscious and children. From being a course of last resort to an increasingly common course for many patients.