Re End of Life Choices

Endeavour Forum Inc. is a women's NGO which has special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN.

1. We do not need any legislative change to allow assisted suicide or euthanasia, instead we need accessible palliative care for all who need it.

2. We should not discriminate against sick, old, handicapped or mentally and emotionally vulnerable persons by encouraging them to suicide.

3. A licence to kill is bad public policy. It creates groups of people (as in 2. above) whose lives are deemed not worth living.

4. Assisted suicide will exacerbate elder abuse, especially by those who stand to gain financially by the death of the person.

5. Euthanasia undermines medical research. Many people who have been given a diagnosis of "you have six months to live", do in fact live longer, sometimes for years when there is a scientific breakthrough in regard to their condition.

6. Euthanasia not only kills a person but damages the fabric of community and society, and of medical ethics. Doctors should be guided by the principle of "First do no harm", and not by considerations of costs or the hospital budget.

7. Safeguards against involuntary euthanasia do not work. In the Netherlands and Belgium euthanasia has been extended to children and mental patients.

8. The principle of "Autonomy" is over-rated. How many of us are truly autonomous? We depend on others to grow our food, provide our water and heating. Babies and young children are not autonomous, nor are the elderly or handicapped.

9. The slogan "A life not worth living" was coined by the Nazis. They viewed the disabled as "Lebensunwertes Leben", "life unworthy of life". Between 1939 and 1941, more than 70,000 intellectually and physically disabled people were exterminated, the opening act in the Nazis demonic assault on the sanctity of human life.
Seventy years later, the Nazis may be the only example of evil most of the world agrees on. Yet here the pro-euthanasia enthusiasts are borrowing a page from their worldview book! We’re embracing ideas about what gives meaning and dignity to human life, seemingly unaware of where those ideas can and will lead.

10. Human dignity does not derive from what we can do, produce, or control. Human dignity derives from the fact that God made us in His image. All human beings have, by their very existence, dignity. That’s why we oppose physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia and twisted ideas about human dignity.

Mrs. Babette Francis,
National & Overseas Co-ordinator.