I believe that everyone should have the right to choose a safe and effective death should they ever feel that continued living is causing unbearable suffering. Such a guarantee of a safe, effective and non-violent death can only be achieved by having doctor assisted euthanasia legalised.

We practice the compassionate act of providing a timely good death for suffering animals, so why deny such compassion to the human animal? In animals, prolonging their suffering by denial of a good death is called Cruelty to Animals, but in the human animal, it is called The Law.

I do not want to face a terrifying future where I might be forced to attempt to kill myself unaided, simply because it is illegal for a doctor to help me die. Or even worse, to find myself in a position where I am unable to do it for myself, for example after a stroke. I constantly worry about this. It is a nightmare for me.

For me, and many others like me, just knowing that I had the Safety Net of Euthanasia (should I ever choose to use it), would be an enormous relief to me as I face an uncertain old age.

It is not complicated: the effective guaranteed Safety Net of Euthanasia would be like having a parachute when flying an aircraft - hopefully I would never have to use it, but it would be an enormous relief to know that it was there if needed.

I am also convinced that simply having the choice to die safely, successfully and non violently would encourage me (and others) to keep on living (battling) longer, knowing I could always change my mind at any time.

Please, please, take pity on us, and give us the certainty of knowing it will be possible to choose to die safely, non violently, and without suffering, if or when we ever need to make that difficult choice.

Carol Manser