

Westminster Faith Debates

#FaithDebate



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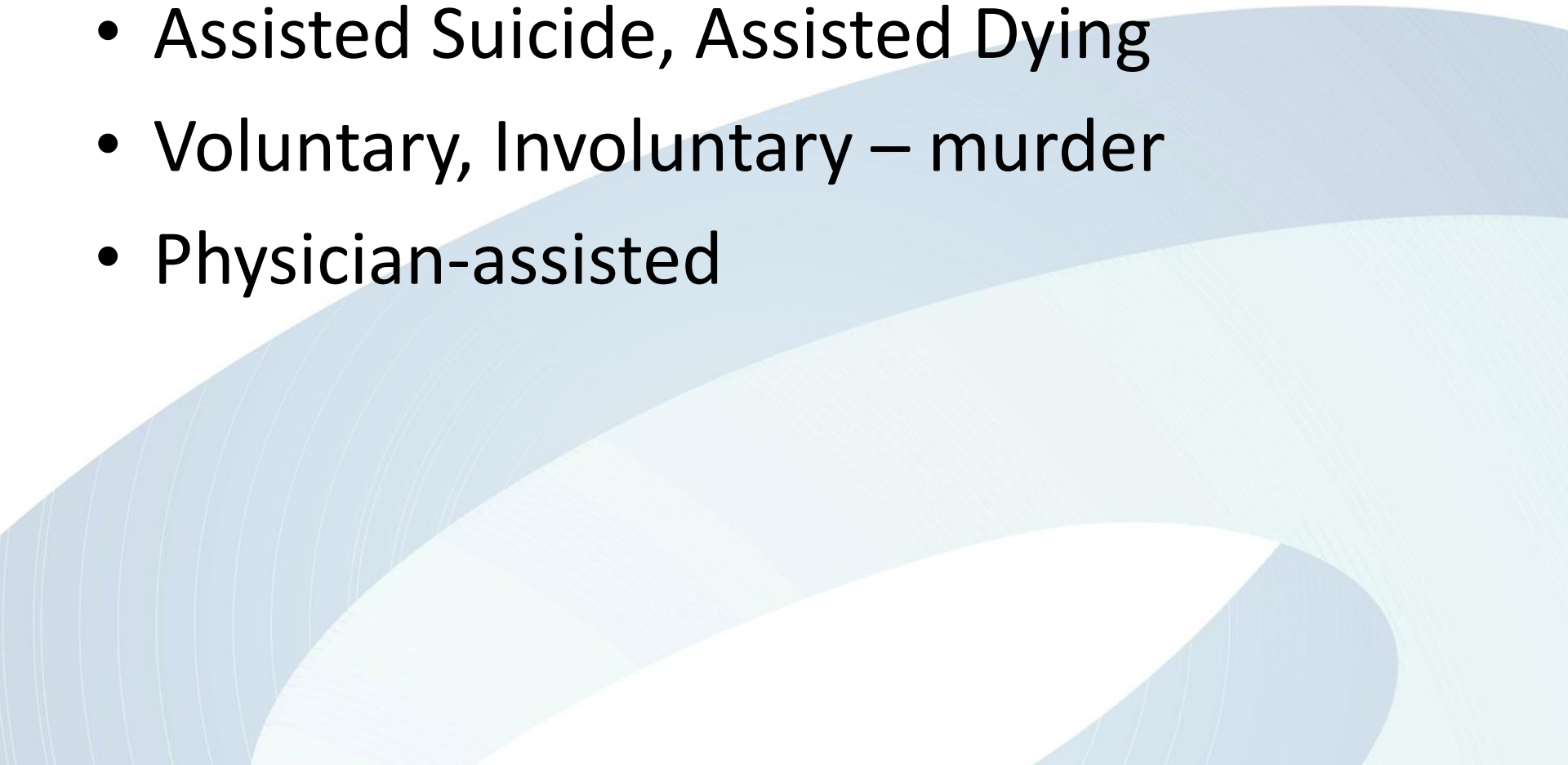
Lancaster
University



Should we Legislate to Permit Assisted Dying?

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Terms

- Euthanasia
 - Assisted Suicide, Assisted Dying
 - Voluntary, Involuntary – murder
 - Physician-assisted
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Euthanasia is the termination of a person's life, in order to end suffering

Do you think British law should be kept as it is, or should it be changed so that people with incurable diseases have the right to ask close friends or relatives to help them commit suicide, without those friends or relatives risking prosecution?



70% law should be changed

16% law should stay as it is

14% “don’t know”

Religious adherents

64% support a change in the law

21% think the law should be kept as it is

14% don't know

Self identified religious tradition	None	Anglican	Roman Catholic	Presbyterian	Methodist	Baptist	Jewish	Hindu	Islam / Muslim
Support change	81	72	56	61	62	43	69	36	26
Oppose change	9	15	30	24	23	45	21	28	55
Don't know	10	13	14	15	15	12	10	36	19

Adherents

Religion of group	Anglican	Roman Catholic	Church of Scotland	Methodist/ Baptist	Pentecostal	Jewish	Hindu	Islam / Muslim
Support change	59	44	45	49	6	64	47	23
Oppose change	25	42	40	40	78	25	36	63
Don't know	16	14	15	11	16	11	17	14

Actively participating in a group

You said that you think the current law on euthanasia should be changed to allow assisted suicide in some circumstances.

Which of the following best describes your view? Please tick all that apply

An individual has the right to choose when and how to die	82
It is preferable to drawn-out suffering	77
Those assisting suicide should not fear prosecution	76
It's happening anyway and regulation would improve safety and delivery	51
The national health and welfare systems cannot provide decent end of life care	35
Other/Don't know	2

You said that you think the current law on euthanasia should be kept as it is.

Which of the following best describes your view? Please tick all that apply

Vulnerable people could be, or feel, pressured to die	59
It places too much of a burden on the person or people who help someone to die	55
You can never build in enough safeguards	48
Human life is sacred	48
Death should take its natural course	46
No-one can ever be certain that they really want to die, but the decision is irreversible	43
Other/Don't know	6

BSA About a person with a painful incurable disease. Do you think that doctors should be allowed, by law to end the patient's life, if the patient requests it?

	1983	1984	1989	1994	2005
Yes	77.39%	75.97%	79.75%	84.32%	81.48%
No	22.61%	24.03%	20.25%	15.68%	18.52%

BSA About a person with an incurable and painful illness, from which they will not die - for example someone with severe arthritis. Do you think that, if they ask for it, a doctor should ever be allowed by law to end their life?

	1995	2005
Definitely should be allowed	17.97%	13.09%
Probably should	25.61%	22.11%
Probably should not be allowed	19.25%	27.17%
Definitely should not be allowed	37.17%	37.64%

Comres PARLIAMENTARY PANEL SURVEY - MPs - July 2012
Would you support or oppose legalising assisted suicide for adults who are mentally competent and have less than twelve months to live?

	Con	Lab	LibDem	Total
Support	28%	28%	50%	29%
Oppose	67%	50%	39%	59%

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