

Assisted Suicide – Proposed Legislation - Web links for serious concerns:

LEGAL ISSUES

<https://ukconstitutionallaw.org/2024/10/30/philip-murray-looking-down-the-slippery-slope-can-assisted-suicide-be-restricted-to-the-terminally-ill/>

Leading legal figures have expressed “*serious misgivings*” about the Leadbeater Bill. Lawyers have a key role in this debate — bills must be drafted carefully, and laws must be made to function — and since that letter was published, Philip Murray, an Assistant Professor in Law at Cambridge, has written: “*I don't believe the Bill's likely safeguards can be anywhere near as watertight as is promised. As such, there can be no guarantees that any assisted suicide law passed by Parliament will not expand in the future. **The slippery slope is a legal reality, not a fiction invented by the Bill's opponents.***”

<https://transparencyproject.org.uk/assisted-dying-what-role-for-the-judge/>

If you've heard campaigners or even your own MP mention **the role of a High Court judge in the coming bill** as a self-evident strength, bear in mind (especially when contacting MPs) that such judges have called this into question. Active Judges are not allowed to express an opinion but retired Judges can. Former High Court judge Sir Nicholas Mostyn “*argues that the judge will be no more than a symbolic rubber stamp,*” while Sir James Munby has concluded:

*“It is, I believe, important for me, as a retired judge and **former President of the Family Division [of the High Court]**, and for the benefit of the vital public debate on this very anxious topic, to make some points... [on] the proposal that there should be judicial involvement in the process. This will be **problematic, to put it mildly.**”*

VIEW FROM PRO-LABOUR JOURNALISTS:

it has never been more important to consider and convey **the case against assisted suicide from the left** wing of the political spectrum – and plenty of commentators are doing just that.

- [Sonia Sodha](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/sep/22/a-rushed-uk-law-is-no-way-to-make-such-a-vital-painful-decision-as-how-to-die) in the *Guardian*
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/sep/22/a-rushed-uk-law-is-no-way-to-make-such-a-vital-painful-decision-as-how-to-die>
- [Paul Routledge](https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/westreeing-assisted-dying-vote-33964559) in the *Mirror*
<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/westreeing-assisted-dying-vote-33964559>

- [John McNally](https://morningstaronline.co.uk/article/legalising-assisted-suicide-britain-why-socialists-must-oppose-bill) and [Kevin Yuill](https://morningstaronline.co.uk/article/legalising-assisted-suicide-britain-why-socialists-must-oppose-bill) in the *Morning Star*
<https://morningstaronline.co.uk/article/legalising-assisted-suicide-britain-why-socialists-must-oppose-bill>
- [Hannah Barnes](https://www.newstatesman.com/comment/2024/10/caution-should-prevail-on-the-assisted-dying-bill) in the *New Statesman*
<https://www.newstatesman.com/comment/2024/10/caution-should-prevail-on-the-assisted-dying-bill>

There is a clear and substantial argument to be made for resisting this bill that your MP – if they belong to the Labour tradition – needs to hear.

IMPACT ON WOMEN

<https://www.glamourmagazine.co.uk/article/assisted-dying-womens-rights-opinion>

Journalist Hannah Shewan Stevens recently “wrote about assisted suicide from a women's rights perspective for” *Glamour Magazine*. “**I came into this issue on the fence**, unsure if I was seeing something that wasn't there, but I came out the other side of my research **totally convinced & ready to speak** on this more.”

Hannah's article is a *tour de force*, including interviews with disability rights advocate and actress Liz Carr, and **eating disorders** campaigner Chelsea Roff; research from the *British Journal of Psychiatry*; and evidence from Canada and the Netherlands.

“Women have always been caregivers, the ones who are selfless, who give up their careers to bring up children, and we're the ones who may have less financial freedom as a result, so that puts us in a poorer economic state when faced with chronic illness,” says clinical psychologist Dr. Yvonne Waft, a wheelchair user herself who worries that two-tier mental healthcare could devalue her, and her disabled daughter's lives.

Information from Care Not Killing <https://www.carenotkilling.org.uk>