



MEDIA RELEASE

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The next step in Holland's slippery slope into misery

It has been misreported this past week as a world first (the same happened with legalized euthanasia in the Nazi Holocaust) that, Holland is discussing euthanasia for healthy elderly people who are simply "tired of living." The slippery slope started with "mercy" and has now reached the stage where if one is miserable, just kill yourself. Where will this all stop, at self inflicted ethnic cleansing?

Euthanasia was only legalized in Holland in 2002 but it already started in;
1973 with a doctor giving her mother a lethal injection.
1981 active voluntary euthanasia criteria were set for terminal disease.
1982 euthanasia permitted for chronic disease.
1985 non voluntary euthanasia was tolerated.
1989 infanticide was permitted.
1994 euthanasia was allowed for mental suffering.
1997 no penalty for not following the euthanasia rules.
2001 euthanasia for 16 year old children without the consent of the parents.
2005 Infanticide criteria proposed

This radical new move will push the boundaries even further, with suggestions that "non doctors" will be trained to administer a lethal potion to elderly people. The Dutch parliament will discuss the proposal because assisted suicide campaigners collected around 112500 signatures. In a country with a population of 16,318,199 (July 2004 est.) that is only 0.689% of the population.

Proponents of legalized suicide use quotes from the "Final Exit Network" organization, to support euthanasia. Final Exit Network describes taking

one's own life as "self deliverance." Its website says, "Mentally competent adults have a basic human right to end their lives when they suffer from a fatal or irreversible illness or intractable pain, when their quality of life is personally unacceptable, and the future holds only hopelessness and misery. Such a right shall be an individual choice, including the timing and choice of companion, free of any restrictions by the law, clergy, medical profession, even friends and relatives no matter how well-intentioned." However, it is not reported that at the moment, four of the FEN members are charged for killing a person under suspicious motifs.

It is a tragedy that the Dutch are willing to make Holland a laboratory for such deadly experiments. One just hopes that South Africa and the rest of the world will have the common sense to read the disastrous results before we consider following their example.

Doctors for Life International, represents more than 1800 medical doctors and specialists, three-quarters of whom practice in South Africa. Since 1991 DFL has been actively promoting health care that is safe and efficient for all South Africans. For more information visit <http://www.doctorsforlife.co.za>