

## Call to action!

Campaign name:

## Kill the Bill

This campaign is about:

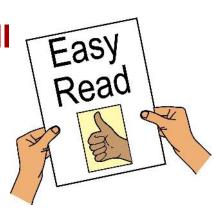
The Terminally ill Adults (End of Life)
Bill

Also known as:

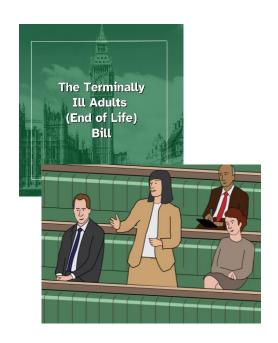
The Assisted Suicide Bill

and

**The Assisted Dying Bill** 



## What is this campaign about?



Parliament will soon vote on a new proposed (suggested) law called 'The Terminally ill Adults (End of Life) Bill'.

We believe this is a dangerous piece of law that will kill individuals at risk (vulnerable adults).

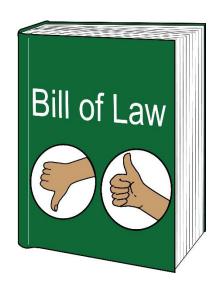
We must we work together to stop this **Bill**!

**Parliament:** In the UK, this is the House of Commons (where Members of Parliament work) and the House of Lords who both vote on making the law. They meet at the Palace of Westminster in London.

**Terminally ill:** When someone has an illness with no cure, they will die from it eventually.

**Bill:** A Bill is a suggested new piece of law. It must go through a big process in parliament before it becomes the law. It needs a lot of discussion, so everyone is sure about it.

### What is this Bill about?







This Bill is called 'The Terminally ill Adults (End of Life) Bill'. It is also known as 'The Assisted Suicide Bill' and 'The Assisted Dying Bill'.

This Bill is a long document about a complicated topic. It suggests that the law should change to allow medical people to help people die if:

- they have a terminal illness (it is incurable)
- doctors have said they have 6 months or less left to live
- they can think clearly about the decision (have no mental health problems)
- they are adults (over the age of 18).
- Helping these people to end their lives is known as assisted suicide or assisted dying.

### Who we are





We are Not Dead Yet UK (NDYUK). We are a national, grassroots disability rights group. We are a campaigning network of disabled people. We do not want assisted suicide to become legal (be ok in the law). We believe it discriminates against disabled people, and they might be killed unfairly because of it.

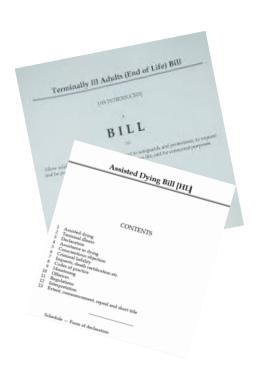




We only campaign against assisted suicide. That's all we do.

'pro-life' or religious groups or organisations.
We are a secular (not religious) organisation.
Our members include people of faith and people without faith (also known as atheists).

**Pro-life:** 'Pro' means 'for', meaning to support something. Here, pro-life means being against anything that takes life, so that is being against assisted suicide and abortion (ending a pregnancy).



In recent years, there have been a few Assisted Suicide Bills which tried to make assisted suicide legal, but they all failed. This latest Bill was started at the end of 2024. We are now campaigning to kill this bill before it harms the disabled community forever.

### **Our history**





### Main points in our history:

 Baroness Campbell of Surbiton founded Not Dead Yet UK in 2003 after meeting Alison Davies.
 Before then, Alison was the only disabled person campaigning against assisted suicide.











- Baroness Campbell with Dave Morris, Sian Vasey, Rowan Jade, Mengi Mulchandani and Kevin Fitzpatrick held their first meeting in City Hall in London.
- The media used to think that people were only against assisted suicide because of their religious beliefs. So they only asked Bishops to comment on it. This made us very worried. So we worked to get the media to ask disabled people about assisted suicide.
- Baroness Campbell
   contacted disabled people
   in the United States (US).
   That group were already
   campaigning about
   assisted suicide using the
   name "Not Dead Yet."
   They helped us to set up
   a sister network in the
   United Kingdom (UK)
   called "Not Dead Yet UK."

#### Our aim



Our aim is simple: To stop assisted suicide ever being legal in the UK.
To do this, we campaign against assisted suicide.
It's the only thing we do.
We will always keep fighting against any change in the

law about this to protect the

disabled community.

### Our campaign work





We have campaigned to parliament to listen to the voices of disabled people about assisted suicide for many years.

Big moments in our campaign work:

- People understand disabled people's worries better now.
- The media does not only ask Bishops to speak against assisted suicide. It asks us – disabled people.

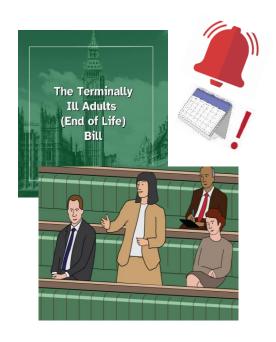






- Not Dead Yet UK gave evidence (facts) in the 'Conway' case in the High Court in 2017 and 2018. This court case was for assisted suicide and we helped successfully argue against it.
- Recently, we gave evidence (facts) to parliament. This was to the House of Commons Health and Social Care Select Committee into Assisted Dying/ Assisted Suicide.
- Last year on BBC1, Not
  Dead Yet UK member Liz
  Carr presented a
  documentary she wrote
  called "Better off Dead?".
  It was about the
  experience of disabled
  people and others in
  countries where assisted
  suicide is legal.

### What we are worried about



The Terminally ill Adults (End of Life) Bill has been rushed through in a poor and unfair process. Key safeguards (protections) have already been stripped away (removed). We must protect disabled people and those with long-term health conditions by stopping this unsafe Bill.





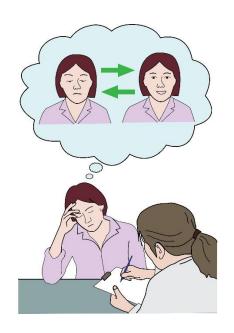
We have 7 problems with the Bill. These are big problems so we believe parliament should not pass it (let it become the law).

### Our 7 big problems are:

1. Some of the law will not be decided until later on. Ministers will only decide on some details until after the law has been passed.



These are really important things like safeguards (protections) - such as who is suitable and how to give the life-ending drugs. This means the government can change the law quietly, without public discussion. This is not fair.



2. A risk of coercion.

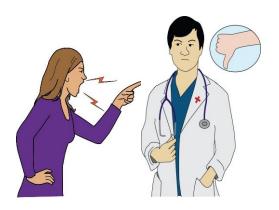
In the Bill, people need checks by doctors and panels of experts to make sure they are suitable for assisted suicide. But it is not clear how people will be protected against

coercion.

**Coercion:** Putting pressure on someone to do something they don't want to do. Here we mean people or families trying to persuade disabled people to end their lives by using assisted suicide.







3. Poor supervising (checking) of doctors. The Bill lets doctors decide who is suitable for assisted suicide but training the doctors is a separate set of rules. Also, it does not say experts in end-of-life care or mental health must be involved in the process. So there might be mistakes about who is terminally ill (which happens in up to 3 in every 20 cases). Or doctors may have pressure to approve people for assisted suicide.



4. Reporting of the death is not clear.

At the time of suicide, there is a "final statement."



This does not say if there are independent checks that the patient agreed to die at the end. There is no process to check if the death process was done properly. This increases the risk for abuse of the system.

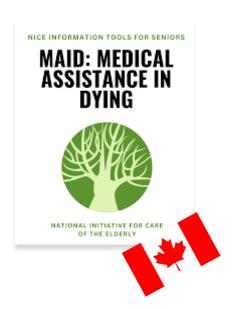




# 5. Risks of the drugs used to end life.

The Secretary of State can say which drugs can be used and how, without medical people agreeing. Some drugs like secobarbital (which they use in the United States of America) can make deaths longer and more painful if they are not given properly.







The Bill suggests that assisted suicide is part of "holistic care", that is looking after the overall wellbeing of a person. But, it could start to include people who do not have a terminal illness. In Canada for example, their system is called MAID (Medical Assistance in Suicide) and it now includes people who have a mental illness or who are poor.



7. Not the best process used in making the Bill.

The Bill is a 'Private Members' Bill'. This means that a Member of Parliament (MP) has proposed it who is not a minister in the government.





And because the government did not propose the Bill, this means it does not have the same careful process around it. It means they can force MPs to vote on this life-and-death law without knowing all the facts about it. This is not safe and not a fair way of doing things.

## Take action! What you can do to help



In this campaign, we are telling Members of Parliament (MPs) and the public how dangerous the Bill is. You can help us!

There are **3 ways** you can help our campaign to stop the Bill:

- 1. Meet with your MP
- 2. Share your story
- 3. Join our events

### 1. Meet with your MP



Your voice matters!
We need as many of you as possible to speak with your MP about how dangerous the Bill is **before June 20**<sup>th</sup> **2025**.

That is when MPs in parliament will be discussing it next.

Follow these **3 easy steps** to meet and talk to your MP:



# 1. Find out who your MP is.

Click <u>here</u> to the UK
Parliament website, then
enter your postcode.
Then click on your MP to
find out their contact
details.

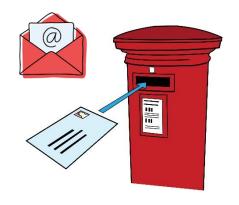






# 2. Write a letter to your MP.

Write a letter to your MP to ask to meet them about the Bill. You could meet them online or in person. Tell them you want them to know how the Bill will affect you and the disabled community. Writing a letter in your own words is better, but if you need some help, you can use our letter <a href="here">here</a> and just add in your MP's name, and your name and address at the end.



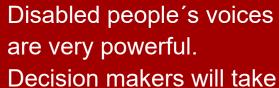
## 3. Send the letter to your MP.

Email the letter to your MP. Or you could print it out and post it.

### 2. Share your story







more notice when they see and hear our stories.
So we would like to share your story on our <u>disabled</u> voices webpage here.

You can record a video or a voice message (an audio).

Here are the **3 easy steps** to do it:

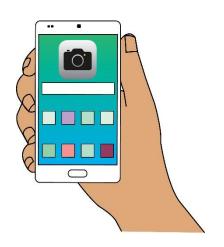




- 1. Answer 1 of the questions below. If you want to answer more than 1 question, please record a separate video or audio for each question:
  - 1) How do you think the Assisted Suicide Bill will affect you?
  - 2) What scares you about this Bill?



3) What other things could help people instead of making Assisted Suicide legal?





- 2. Video yourself with your phone answering the question. Or answer it by recording a voice message (audio). The recording only needs to be 60 seconds (1 minute) long. For help on recording videos click here.
- 3. **Upload your video** to WeTransfer <u>here</u> and email it to us there.
  You can also copy the download link after you have sent it and email it to us at <a href="mailto:hello@notdeadyetuk.org">hello@notdeadyetuk.org</a>.



#### Please note:

By sharing your video, you agree for us to share it on our website and social media channels. You can ask us to remove the video at any time.

### 3. Join our events



We need your help to fight this Bill. By speaking up and attending events, every one of you can help us to:

- campaign
- influence decisionmakers
- raise awareness, and
- protect disabled people's lives.



We are organising 2 demonstrations outside Parliament in June when we know they will be discussing the Bill.





When the 2 demonstrations are on:

Friday 13th June, 8:30am - 12pm (midday)

Friday 20th June, 8:30am - 12pm (midday)





Click here to sign up to join us at the demo.

**Note:** If you sign up, it helps us know how many people are coming to the demonstration.

Or you can just meet us there:

**Statue of George V**, Abingdon St, London SW1P 3JY

Google maps link: <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/f7f4">https://maps.app.goo.gl/f7f4</a>
<a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/f7f4">LNSDxftxjSBa9</a>



## We hope to see you there!



Thank you for reading.

We hope you can help us with our campaign.

This document was put into Easy Read by the Empower Team at People First.



Information is power! www.peoplefirstltd.com