

# *Friends at the End*

*Promoting end of life choices*



**ASSISTED DYING IN  
SCOTLAND**

## **FRIENDS AT THE END**

**We believe that medically assisted dying should be available to all mentally competent adults with either a terminal illness or an incurable condition causing hopeless and unbearable suffering with no reasonable alternative to relieve it, provided this is their own persistent request.**

## CURRENT LAW IN SCOTLAND

- No legislation – *assume* it is illegal. Regarded as deliberate killing = murder/ culpable homicide charge
- No guidelines from the Lord Advocate (Eng & Wales have this from DPP)
- Minimal and confusing case law – Gordon Ross: ‘It is not a crime to assist another to commit suicide...nor to take a person to a place where they will’

# LAW REFORM IN SCOTLAND

- **End of Life Assistance Bill 2010.** “become intolerable through a progressive degenerative condition, a trauma or a terminal illness to seek a doctor's help in dying.
- **Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill 2013.** “terminal, progressive or life-shortening illnesses to obtain assistance in ending their own life by suicide.
- **Advocated 3 stage process:**
  - Preliminary Declaration,
  - First Request for Assistance,
  - Second Request for Assistance.

## WHAT WE ARE DOING

- Sponsoring the Cross Party Group on End of Life Choices at the Scottish Parliament
- Educating MSP's and the public
- Supporting case law – Omid T
- Advance Directive project – giving legal status to already available options
- Local Groups

## WHAT CAN YOU DO

- Join us and join or set up a local group in your area
- Volunteer to take part in campaign activity
- Contact your MSP/MP
- Write letters to your local paper, like, share and retweet our Facebook and twitter posts
- Fundraise/Donate
- Become a befriender or volunteer speaker