

The End of Life Partnership Statement on Assisted Dying

EOLP advocates for personalised and compassionate end of life care for all, regardless of their views or preferences in relation to death and dying.

There is an increasing public and professional debate within current media around the legalisation of assisted dying in the UK. Some healthcare professionals and groups, such as the Royal College of Nursing and the British Medical Association, have shifted from outright opposition to more neutral or supportive stances, reflecting the evolving public conversation.

While assisted dying remains illegal in the UK, there is growing momentum to re-examine the issue, with public opinion, healthcare professionals, and political debate playing key roles in shaping future developments. However, significant opposition remains, particularly around concerns about safeguarding vulnerable people and the ethical responsibilities of medical practitioners.

As an organisation that provides professional and public education covering a wide range of end-of-life care topics, we cannot ignore the significance that the debate on assisted dying has for the future of palliative and end of life care. We therefore recognise the importance of providing a safe learning space for the exploration of the complex ethical, legal, and emotional considerations relating to this topic area. These include the respect for personal autonomy, concerns about potential abuse, and the role of medical professionals in end-of-life care.

In providing this safe learning space for professionals and for members of the public to debate and explore issues relating to assisted dying, EOLP neither supports nor objects to this becoming a legalised framework within the UK and places no value judgement of those that either oppose or support this.

As an organisation EOLP will always refer to current UK legislation within the education that we deliver and will continue to advocate for personalised and compassionate end of life care for all.