

Age abuse

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WHAT are we coming to? Along with ill-treatment of the elderly on hospital wards, vile comments and jokes about the aged are becoming acceptable.

On March 16, Radio 4's The Now Show had a song suggesting 'cholera or bubonic plague' to kill the elderly, or a 'vial of smallpox' in a 'lab' to 'get those not needed where they should be — on a slab'. I couldn't believe my ears.

Contacting the BBC or Ofcom can't correct something that has already been broadcast. Had this joke been directed at an ethnic minority, there would have been an outcry.

Why is it acceptable to joke about killing older people? The dehumanisation of sections of the population is what happened in Thirties and World War II Germany and led to extermination on a vast scale. Have we forgotten?

Old people in Britain are frightened by what's going on. These cruel, heartless attitudes that are presented as 'jokes' encourage a deplorable change of attitude towards our elders.

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