

PRESS STATEMENT FROM ALERT AND DISTANT VOICES

Thursday 18th April 2013

For immediate release:

Anti-euthanasia groups oppose attempt by Paul Lamb and Dignity in Dying to change the law on assisted suicide

***Nikki Kenward**, a disabled woman from Aston on Clun, Shropshire, who founded Distant Voices after she was locked in for nearly a year (see notes below), said: "Mr Lamb is clearly depressed. The bad news is that disabled people like me and rucks of others get depressed because, just when we thought we might have a place in society, along comes another 'my life isn't worth living' Dignity in Dying campaign and off we go.*

"Even though Dignity in Dying keeps banging on about euthanasia being only for terminally ill people I believe that the changes in the law advocated by this group pose a genuine threat to people like me. Seriously disabled people are useful for the dirty campaigns of Dignity in Dying. I'm insulted, I'm alienated, and I'm tired of the sense of being on a list of people who qualify for assisted death that this group is giving me."

For further information

Please contact either **Nikki Kenward** of Distant Voices on 01588 660528, email: nikkikenward@gmail.com, or **Elsbeth Chowdharay-Best** of ALERT on 020 7730 2800.

Nikki's story can be read here: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-2019171/Dignitas-No-right-switch-human-life.html>

More about the Lamb case can be read here:
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/10001906/Paralysed-man-taking-on-Tony-Nicklinson-right-to-die-mantle-waves-anonymity.html>

Website: www.alertuk.org

Notes to Editors:

ALERT aims to warn people of the dangers of any type of euthanasia legislation and pro-death initiatives. These have included the promotions of living wills and advance directives, which create a climate for the acceptance of euthanasia.

ALERT was founded in December 1991 to provide well-documented information on these and related issues, and to defend the lives and rights of the medically vulnerable, recognising that all human beings are of equal value.

ALERT defines euthanasia as “any action or omission which is intended to end the life of a patient”. The law in every country until recent years protected all citizens against being killed, regardless of their status or condition and the first infamous exception to this rule was in Nazi Germany. Such laws change the attitude of society towards its members.

It has never been part of doctors’ duty to prolong the dying process by extraordinary interventions. But they should never deliberately harm those in their care. ALERT is calling for the restoration of the law against homicide, which has served our citizens well for centuries.

ALERT is a campaigning organisation, not a charity, and is funded solely by donations from our supporters.

Distant Voices was launched in 2009 with a declaration about the human rights of disabled people, read by Nikki Kenward the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square, London, during Anthony Gormley’s rolling display of art.

Distant Voices campaigns against euthanasia using a variety of creative media, including art, sculpture, music, demonstrations, flash mobbing, photography

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