

Dear Sir,

Lord Bragg is the latest in a long line of prominent individuals announcing that he “would arrange an ‘assisted suicide’ rather than die with dementia” (‘I’m prepared for suicide, says Bragg’, Telegraph, May 6, 2013).

Such pronouncements do not help people with dementia – rather than calling for more research into the causes of dementia, and for improvements in care, they suggest that suicide is the solution.

Far from taking a responsible decision, it is the height of irresponsibility to encourage the view that people in the early stages of dementia would be better off dead. It is not even about suicide, but about arranging for someone to kill him, which is euthanasia; and murder is still against the law. By discussing the problems of disability in such a personal way Lord Bragg gives the impression that he is a spokesman for the disabled, but he is not.

Yours faithfully,

Ann Farmer  
020 8505 6002  
66 Chingford Lane  
Woodford Green  
Essex IG8 9QP.