



News Release

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‘IT’S KILLING, NOT MERCY,’ SAYS RADAR

RADAR, the UK’s leading pan-disability campaigning organisation, is deeply worried by the growing trend of labelling the killing of disabled people as a ‘mercy’.

“In the current social climate, where the Assisted Dying Bill is being considered in the House of Lords, such judgements are deeply damaging to disabled people’s position as equal members of a just society”, said Kate Nash RADAR Chief Executive. She continued “Making Assisted Dying a societal ‘good’ will make such cases and judgements more commonplace.”

Too often, disabled people are seen as an object of pity, and this creates an atmosphere of oppression. Where there is an oppression of pity, judgements such as ‘it was for their own good’ and ‘it was a selfless act’ are seen as a reasonable response.

Making such assumptions about quality of life enables the labelling of killing as a mercy. There should be no value judgement placed on the worth of an individual life. Such a judgement is inevitably subjective.

“RADAR recognises that there is a huge pressure on the carers of disabled family members. Providing 24 hour care is an exceptionally difficult, and stressful, task. But our view is that this makes the adequate provision of support services, suitable to individual needs, an absolute necessity. Without this, the serious discussion of legislation for Assisted Dying is fundamentally premature,” said Kate Nash.

Notes for editors:

¹ RADAR is a national non-governmental disability organisation working for the rights of disabled people, from the broadest range of cultural, racial and social backgrounds, irrespective of their impairment. Although RADAR works with organisations of all types (of and for disabled people) RADAR itself is an organisation of disabled people.

² RADAR’s vision is about pushing out the boundaries of the expected; a vision of a world where human difference is routinely anticipated, expertly accommodated and positively celebrated.

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