

BOOK REVIEW

In the book, "Informal legal change on assisted suicide: the policy for prosecutors", Penney Lewis tries to assess the current policy on assisted suicide for prosecutors made by the Director of Public Prosecutions in England. The author gives an outline of the situation that started this change of policy, while also discussing the consultation phase as well as the final Policy. Also, the author also presented a comparative examination of the heterogeneous methods to assisted suicide in other regions which are Canada, Dutch, Belgium and all over the United Kingdom.

In the case of *R (Purdy) v Director Public Prosecutors* [2009] UKHL 45 the House of Lords bid the DPP to explain the position on assisted suicide that led to this policy. Unfortunately, as a result of favouring quantitative data collection during the consultation phase, this had a negative impact and limited the quality of analysis carried out by the consultants and also ameliorate the standard or quality of the consultation. Also, the author argues that this informal adjustment was not backed up by enough public and parliament discussion and scrutiny. The final policy did not give a specification for the victim's condition or their suffering; the author suggested that it would be helpful if a physician is sanctioned as a result of the unbearable suffering of the patient.

Professor Lewis highlighted the limitation of this policy, regarding the difference between a person suffering from depression and someone going through extreme pain. She emphasised on the dissimilarities of this policy with the Dutch approach that needs to test the victim's suffering. Prof. Lewis condemns the policy's additional factors that will prevent healthcare professionals from rendering expert advice and necessary assistance to victims. She claimed that these factors would contribute to a small number of assisted suicides that take place in the UK, while also placing unaccommodating pressure on unlicensed friends or loved ones of victims to give support or assistance. This policy also needs the unwilling suspect to prevent

the victim from engaging in activities that will result in his/her suicide. Another concern raised as regard this factor is that it needs an emotional reaction from friends or family member which is not always practicable. While referring to her past works on the diverse means to the legal amendment on assisted dying, she contends that this policy does not come under the criteria of the usual methods utilised in other countries.

She argues that the policy is unnecessarily broad because it has shortcomings in the restrictions of other jurisdictions. The usual methods include duty based and compassion-based change and the use of human rights. This article gives a clear and informative analysis regarding the new policy used by prosecutors for assisted suicide. Prof. Lewis successfully put this policy into a broad context by providing references from other methods used in other jurisdictions. A major plus of this article is the unbiased analysis of the issue, which despite her analytical perspective, allows the reader to give his/her own opinion too. She gives a notable recommendation to policymakers to put in perspective or deliberate on when next this issue is being discussed.

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