

Why Christians must oppose assisted suicide

Autumn 2026

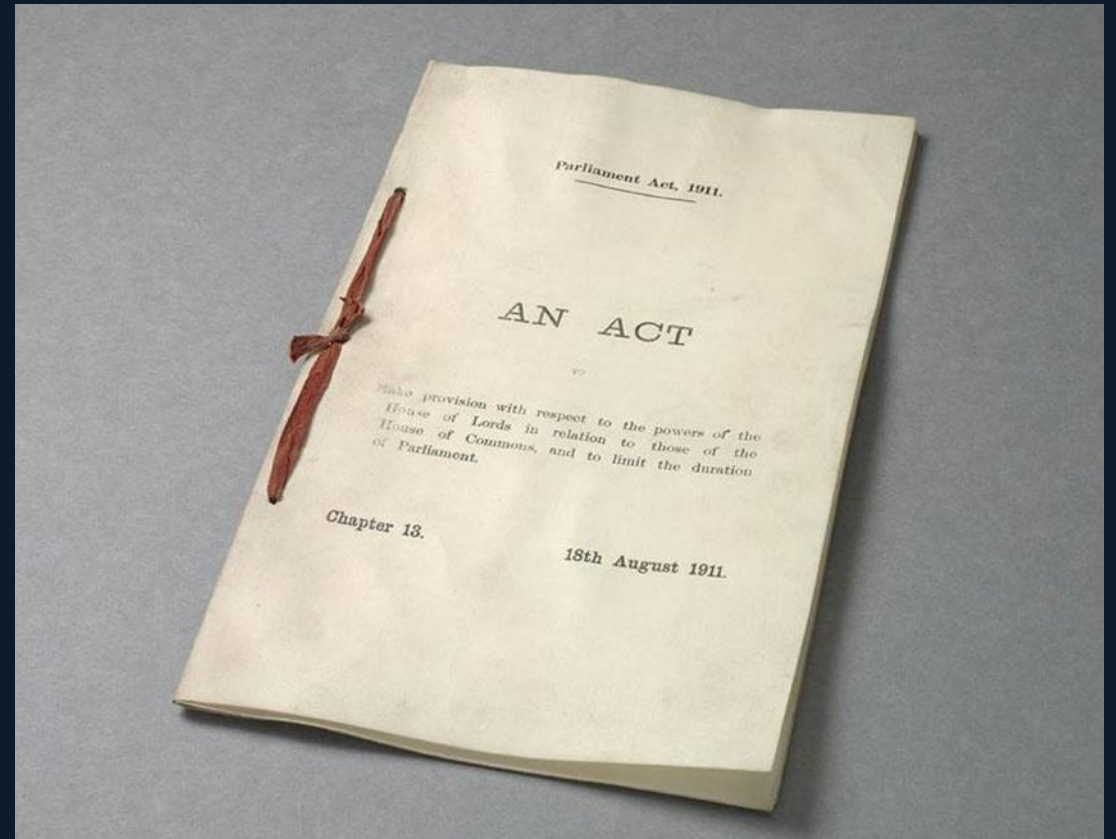
Assisted suicide – what is happening?

- Labour MP Lauren Edwards is re-introducing the assisted dying bill that “fell” at the end of the last Parliamentary session.
- The vote will take place on Friday 11th September 2026.
- This is the same bill Kim Leadbeater introduced last year, which keeps alive the risk of the Parliament Act being used (more on next slide).



What is the Parliament Act?

- The Parliament Act is a piece of legislation that allows a bill to bypass the House of Lords if the same bill has been passed by the House of Commons in two consecutive sessions.
- The bill brought back by Lauren Edwards MP is the same bill as the one that Kim Leadbeater MP proposed in the last Parliamentary session, which did pass a vote in the House of Commons.
- This means that the bill has already been passed once, and therefore, if it passes on 11th September, that may make it eligible for its supporters to try and use the Parliament Act.



Assisted suicide – what to expect?

- The proposal is to legalise assisted suicide for people expected to live six months or less.
- This is intended as a ‘safeguard’ to limit the possibility of abuses.
- However, campaigners have consistently campaigned to remove ‘safeguards’ from this bill.
- In other countries, safeguards have consistently been weakened over time, leading to rises in numbers and abuses.
- But, we know that no safeguards will work. Vulnerable people will feel the pressure to die in this way. We must not cross this line.



Assisted suicide – what has happened elsewhere?

- The Netherlands:
 - 5.4% of all deaths are by euthanasia
 - 1 in 5 deaths by euthanasia are not reported
- Belgium:
 - 47% of assisted deaths are not reported
 - Euthanasia figures rise every year
- Canada:
 - 4% of all deaths are by assisted suicide or euthanasia
- Oregon:
 - 54% of people who have died in Oregon felt they were a burden
 - Diabetes could be considered a terminal illness and reason for suicide

Assisted suicide – why should Christians care?

- Life is not ours to take
 - We are made in God's image, with value and dignity (Gen 1:27)
 - Deliberately taking human life is condemned because we are God's image bearers (Gen 9:5-6) – no exception is made for 'mercy killing'
- Assisted suicide is not compassionate
 - For Christians, it is sin – suicide is consistently forbidden in Scripture
 - For non-Christians, it means an eternity without Christ
- We are to protect the vulnerable
 - A law would inevitably lead to pressure on vulnerable people to take their lives
 - It also sends the message: some lives are not worth living
 - We should love our neighbour by opposing assisted suicide

Assisted suicide – What can Christians do?

- Write to your MP
 - Use our guide, to write a personal email or letter to your MP.
- Speak to your MP
 - Find out when they hold their surgeries and book to meet them and speak to them.
 - This may be daunting, but it is more important than any other step you could take.
- Use our resources and sign up for updates
 - [Christianconcern.com/stop-assisted-suicide](https://christianconcern.com/stop-assisted-suicide)