

A message from DIGNITAS for members and friends:
Your Death Your Choice - Join us in changing the law

DIGNITAS supports campaign and new court case to change the law in England & Wales

Dear members and friends of DIGNITAS

DIGNITAS advocates, educates and supports for improving care and choice in life and at life's end. For this, we get involved in important court cases - from 2002' Pretty v. United Kingdom to the landmark Carter v. Canada case overturning criminal code provision prohibiting assisted dying - to push the legalisation of assisted dying.

In the past 14 years, over 300 Britons have travelled to Dignitas for a professional, medically supported and accompanied suicide. However, these people should not have been forced to travel to Switzerland, but rather have the choice of such self-determined end of suffering and life at home. The law in the UK needs to change. As past votes in the Lords and the Commons have shown, a majority of politicians are deaf to public opinion and/or entangled in personal, religious and financial interests. Therefore, further court cases are necessary to bring about change.

For this, DIGNITAS forwards to you the message (see below) of Solicitor and Partner Saimo Chahal of London Law firm Bindmans, to alert you the fact that there is a legal campaign to change the law in England & Wales, started by Elaine Spector and two further individuals, who wish to remain anonymous - V and J. You will recall that Saimo Chahal previously acted for Debbie Purdy, Tony and Jane Nicklinson and Paul Lamb.

If you are interested in joining the legal campaign please will you email Saimo Chahal on s.chahal@bindmans.com

You are also being asked to help by:

- donating;
- circulating to all your contacts and asking them to donate;
- ask them to send to their contacts who may be interested;
- tweeting your support.

Thank you very much for your support to change the law. May we all live to see freedom of choice and human dignity in life and at life's end in England & Wales and around the world - that's what DIGNITAS works for.

Yours sincerely

The DIGNITAS-team

DIGNITAS

To live with dignity

To die with dignity

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Wednesday 9 March 2016

Two more people give their accounts of why the lawfulness of the ban on **assisted dying** in this country is to be challenged again by launching crowdfunding to pursue their cases in the High Court. Many more people have indicated they too would like to change the law and wish to support this legal challenge.

Elaine Spector, who was married to Jeffrey Spector, tells her story. She states that she and their three daughters respected Jeffrey's choice to have an assisted death. How much more humane would it have been if Jeffrey had been able to die in England when the time was right for him rather than having a premature death in Switzerland. She argues that Jeffrey was forced to travel to Switzerland whilst he was still well enough to do so under his own steam, thereby shortening his life. The state is arguably in breach of Articles 2 and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (the right to life and right to family life).

J, and her husband V, also support a change in the law. J is suffering from a grade 4 cancer and had a brain tumour removed at the end of 2015. She is horrified by the idea of her deteriorating ill health and a painful and demeaning death. Her husband, V, supports her wish to end her life in a dignified way. She has decided to travel abroad to die when her pain and suffering become unbearable. They will be seeking to challenge the ban on assisted dying too. They wish to remain anonymous as J is too ill to deal with publicity.

Saimo Chahal QC (Hon), Partner at Bindmans LLP, who acted for Debbie Purdy, Tony Nicklinson and Paul Lamb said:

"It is now nearly two years since the Supreme Court issued Judgment in the Nicklinson and Lamb cases inviting Parliament to review the law. Although the Commons debated the issue of assisted dying for the terminally ill last year, the debate did not scratch the surface of this complicated, moral, ethical and legal issue - you only have to read the transcript of the debate to know this. Virtually, every week we hear of the pain and suffering of people who have to make a choice about how to die with dignity and how they are prevented by the current law from exercising that choice. This causes a huge amount of pain and suffering to the person concerned and to their families. I get very regular requests for advice on this subject and think it is time that the courts reviewed the law with serious and in-depth consideration of the issues".

Please support Elaine and J & V in challenging the ban on assisted dying in England & Wales, through litigation in the High Court.

Elaine, with J and V, launched their request for crowd funding today arguing that this inhumane law, affects not just them, but many other hundreds of people and that it is an issue of public importance - today it's them and tomorrow it could affect you or a loved one. They ask for financial help to bring their cases before the court.

Make a pledge by visiting:

<http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/yourdeathyourchoice>

AND

Raise awareness about the campaign - the power of social media and technology means you can help us spread the word in just 140 characters... here's a tweet you could use - [tweet now](#):

Support @RightToDieLaw - join us in changing the law on assisted death in England & Wales #YourDeathYourChoice <http://goo.gl/1okvlg>

You can find out more on the website: Fehler! Hyperlink-Referenz ungültig.

Yours Sincerely,



Saimo Chahal QC (Hon)
Partner | Bindmans LLP

