

**Heritage Party**  
Madeleine Hunt  
General Secretary  
Unit 77, 26 The Hornet  
Chichester, PO19 7BB

**28.01.2025**

**Subject: Opposition to the Proposed Assisted Suicide Bill  
Call for Evidence – Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill**

**To the Public Bill Committee, and All Parliamentary Ministers,**

I am writing on behalf of the Heritage Party to formally submit our opposition to the Assisted Suicide Bill currently under review in Parliament. The Heritage Party firmly believes that this bill represents a grave departure from the values that should guide our society. We find it necessary to provide evidence of the dangers and moral concerns surrounding its provisions.

History itself provides us with ample evidence of the catastrophic consequences that can arise from such legislation, and we believe this bill should be urgently and immediately scrapped. The fact that this bill has even been considered for introduction in Parliament demonstrates an alarming lack of historical understanding and a dangerous disregard for the lessons we should have learned from past mistakes. It is deeply concerning that those in positions of power, who claim to be responsible for the lives and futures of the people they serve, would even entertain such a proposal.

**Factual Evidence:**

**1. Euthanasia and State-Controlled Life Decisions:**

In several communist countries, particularly under regimes like the Soviet Union, there were instances where the state controlled the rights to life and death under the guise of "social welfare" or "the greater good".

- **Soviet Union:** Under Joseph Stalin's regime, **euthanasia and forced sterilization** were sometimes used as methods of population control, particularly for those deemed "unfit" or a burden to society. These policies, although not uniformly applied, were justified as actions to protect the health and strength of the nation, very much like how the current bill presents the issue of assisted suicide as a "compassionate" solution for terminally ill individuals. The state's ability to dictate who lives and who dies is a central theme in totalitarian governance.
- **China's One-Child Policy (and related practices):** While not directly related to euthanasia, China's **One-Child Policy** (1978-2015) and its enforcement were often justified by the state as necessary for economic stability. Families, particularly those who gave birth to multiple children, were pressured to accept state-mandated abortions or sterilizations. The system showed a dangerous disregard for individual rights, demonstrating the state's control over reproductive and end-of-life decisions, much like what could be seen in a broad implementation of the assisted suicide bill.

## 2. Utilization of “Health Crises” to Push State Agendas:

Communist regimes were known to manipulate health crises to push ideologically driven agendas. This kind of tactic is eerily similar to the current "health" or "climate emergency" language used to justify new laws and regulations, including those involving assisted suicide.

- **Soviet Union:** The Soviet regime manipulated various **public health crises**, such as mental illness, to justify purges and even forced confinement of individuals deemed undesirable or dangerous to the state’s ideology. In a similar way, the **Terminally Ill Adults End of Life Bill** might be used as a stepping stone for broader control over life-and-death decisions. Once a precedent is set, it could extend beyond the terminally ill to other groups of vulnerable individuals, such as those with mental health issues, much as was done in past totalitarian systems.
- **Poland under Communism:** Poland’s communist government also used health crises and mass suffering as a justification for extreme measures. For example, **mental health laws** were often manipulated to imprison dissidents or those deemed to be mentally unstable due to their political beliefs. While not directly linked to euthanasia, the idea of state control over who lives and who dies under the guise of health crises shares a striking resemblance with how health and suffering are framed in the current debate over assisted suicide.

## 3. The "Collective Good" vs. Individual Rights:

Communist regimes justified many extreme actions, including forced sterilization, euthanasia, and medical experimentation, by invoking the concept of the “greater good” or “collective benefit.”

- **East Germany** and other Eastern Bloc countries had **forced labour camps** and harsh laws for those considered “socially unfit.” In the context of the terminally ill, the idea that the state could decide what is in the best interest of an individual, by removing their ability to make decisions for themselves, mirrors this utilitarian approach. The bill presents itself as compassionate, but like the authoritarian regimes, it puts collective or state interests above individual rights.
- **Cuba:** Similarly, under Fidel Castro, Cuban authorities were known to justify medical actions (like **forced sterilization**) under the guise of public health, which sounds eerily like how the **Terminally Ill Adults End of Life Bill** justifies euthanasia for terminally ill individuals to reduce the burden on public resources.

## 4. "Re-education" and Manipulation:

Communist regimes also used the concept of “re-education” to force individuals to conform to state ideology. In a similar way, there could be pressure on vulnerable people to comply with assisted suicide, especially if such decisions are encouraged or even subtly coerced by the state or healthcare systems.

- **Soviet Union’s Approach to Mental Health:** The Soviet Union had **state-run psychiatric institutions** that were used to imprison political dissidents, using the "disease" of being "counter-revolutionary" as justification. The state essentially dictated who was considered fit to live and who was considered expendable or

dangerous to the regime. Similarly, assisted suicide could be justified as a "solution" to those who are deemed a "burden" to society.

- **Communist China:** In a similar manner, China's **social credit system** has begun to penalize individuals based on their "social behaviours." In theory, if individuals are perceived to be economically or socially unproductive, they could be coerced into choosing suicide or euthanasia, under the guise of minimizing their societal impact.

## **Conclusion:**

The parallels between communist regimes' use of state control over life and death, framed as public health or societal welfare, and the current **Terminally Ill Adults End of Life Bill** are striking. The manipulation of health crises and the state's involvement in personal decisions about life and death raises significant ethical concerns. The bill represents not just a violation of personal autonomy, but a dangerous slippery slope towards totalitarianism, one step at a time.

This historical context should serve as a warning to us all. The parallels are clear: once we begin to allow the state to make decisions about life and death, we open the door to systemic abuse, manipulation, and the erosion of our freedoms.

## **Heritage Party**

Madeleine Hunt

General Secretary