

Jornada Ciudades Europeas Por La Muerte Digna.

Qué se puede hacer desde los municipios por lamuerte digna de la ciudadanía?

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In his book, 'La mort opportune, Les droits des vivants sur la fin de leur vie' Jacques Pohier a Dominican Priest, professor in theology and former CEO of ADMD, stated :

' L'euthanasie volontaire n'est pas un choix entre la vie et la mort, elle est un choix entre deux façons de mourir.

Right to Die Europe was founded in 1993 with the support of all the then existing end of life societies. The idea of founding end-of-life clusters at each continent was discussed in 1990 at the Maastricht 8th WFRTDS conference. The idea was given a push by Helge Kuhse, president WFRTDS, in 1992 in Kyoto, where I was elected as the president elect. In spring 1993 in Paris it was decided to unite the European societies on the European continent as a branch of the WFRTDS. The NVVE took the lead in this process and all societies were invited to come together in Bergen aan Zee several send a representative and others gave us the authority to found the RtDE!

Every society in its respective country meets difficulties caused by medical societies, religious hierarchy, ethicists and cowardly politicians. It's amazing that, on the other hand, the majority of the population, their voters, in European countries is in favour of the regulation of "medical aid in dying" (MAiD).



Our aim was and is to promote the right to self-determination which was, by the way, the leading idea of the 1990 world conference of WFRtDS.

What are the ambitions or bits and pieces of RtDE?

- To seek acceptance and legislation of voluntary euthanasia, assisted suicide, or at least medical help in dying.
- To encourage the discussion on ending life in dignity.
- Campaigning for the legal acceptance of the living will, and advanced directives.
- To seek social acceptance and legal recognition in Europe of self-determination to guarantee a dignified death.
- To support initiatives towards setting-up Right to Die Societies.
- To strengthen the ties between the European Sister Societies.
- To make every effort to be represented at appropriate European or national organisations, like for instance the Council of Europe.
- And to oppose those who wish to deny self-determination at the end-of-life.

Palliative care cannot be a substitute for a voluntary explicitly wanted dignified death (euthanasia or physician aid in dying)!

We are pleased to inform you that after 10 years at last in 2013 RTDE obtained an INGO Participatory Status at the Council of Europe. It took that long because our aim was too controversial. It is important to have an ability to speak on a European level. After the first visit we are now heard and we meet more and more INGO's who support our view, slowly step by step but nevertheless there is progress. We get more and more support for our case by members of INGO's

In the Netherlands it took more than 30 years to acquire a 'euthanasia law' (2002) as the codification of case law provoked by courageous physicians who reported their euthanasia to the public prosecutor.

The due care criteria were formulated in seven case law procedures, the first one took place in 1973.

In the Netherlands security is granted by SCEN (Support and Consultation of Euthanasia in the Netherlands) before by independent specially trained physicians and after the euthanasia by the Review Committee.

I do hope that Spanish and Portuguese citizens do not need that period of time to gain freedom and self-determination at the end of life. Last year an euthanasia law was defeated by only 4 votes in the Portuguese parliament.

In Belgium and Luxemburg the law came about in a different way but with nearly the same outcome. In Switzerland, during the forties, a law was adopted to make assisted suicide legal by volunteers.



The Benelux countries do not allow what is called 'euthanasia tourism'.

Let Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD), voluntary euthanasia and physician assisted suicide become a normal humane legal procedure.

Let us together, get this happen for all citizens of Europe! Contact your MEP's in parliament and ask them to fight for full freedom of choice even for a voluntary and dignified end of life as the ultimate right to self-determination.

We can and must do it together!!

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