



ASSISTED DYING

Disability Equality (nw) Ltd supports disabled people multiple and diverse impairments.

In recent years many of the people we support have experienced appalling treatment as a consequence of other people's assumptions and attitudes about the value and quality of their lives.

Examples include having food and water withheld in hospital, having 'Do not resuscitate' notices placed on their medical notes without their consent, and being denied essential medical treatment that would be given automatically to a non disabled person.

In light of this, Disability Equality (nw) Ltd, although understanding of disabled people's right to choose, is very concerned about proposals to legalise assisted suicide.

We live in a culture where disabled people's lives are considered less valuable than those of other people and current safeguards have not proved adequate to prevent disabled people's lives being threatened on a regular basis. The decision by the DPP to sanction assisted suicide in some situations further undermines already inadequate protection and opens up further possibilities for abuse.