

# ASSISTED SUICIDE - DO HARD CASES REALLY MAKE POOR LAW? Professor John Wyatt

There have always been people who have had to struggle with chronic ill-health. Nowadays, thanks to modern medical science, we live longer than previous generations and degenerative diseases are more prevalent. It is thought that almost a million British people live with dementia or other debilitating diseases. Still more fear such things might happen to them and some wish to take control of the timing and manner of their death. The call to legalise assisted suicide is back on the political agenda. Polls suggest that a majority of the public would be in favour of such a change to the law, and religious opposition is seen simply as another example of ingrained conservatism. Doctors, however, do not want to terminate life and there is also strong opposition from disabled people who fear that a right to die would soon become a duty to die, as has happened in parts of Europe where euthanasia and assisted suicide have become legal. Prof John Wyatt, until recently Professor of Ethics and Perinatology at University College London, and author of 'Matters of life and Death' (IVP) will discuss these issues.

## 8 pm Tuesday 3rd November 2015

Lindisfarne House, 4 Barbourne Terrace, Worcester WR1 3JS



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