

Equality and
Human Rights
Commission

Scotland
equalityhumanrights.com

EQUAL TO THE END ?

A Question Time Debate on End of Life Choices and Issues

Tuesday 24th March, Tron Theatre, Glasgow, 7.00pm – 9.00pm

6.15pm: FOYER :
Canapés and drinks

7.00pm: AUDITORIUM :
Welcome from Chairperson – Alex Bell, journalist and
broadcaster

7.05pm: Introduction from Morag Alexander, Scotland
Commissioner, Equality and Human Rights Commission

7.10pm: Chair - Introductory Statements from the Panel:
- Professor Sheila McLean, University of Glasgow
- John Deighan, Catholic Church, Scotland
- Edward Turner, Dignity in Dying
- Peter Brawley, Scottish Personal Assistants Employer
Network

7.30pm: Question Time Debate

8.50pm: Closing Remarks - Alex Bell and Morag Alexander

9.00pm: Drinks Reception

PANELLIST BIOGRAPHIES :

Professor Sheila McLean

Professor McLean is the first holder of the International Bar Association Chair of Law and Ethics in Medicine at Glasgow University and is Director of the Institute of Law and Ethics in Medicine at Glasgow University. She has acted as a consultant to the World Health Organisation, the Council of Europe, and a number of individual states. She has acted as an expert reviewer for many of the major grant awarding bodies and similar organisations outwith the United Kingdom. She is regularly consulted by the media on matters of medical law and ethics. In 2005 she was awarded the first ever Lifetime Achievement Award at the Scottish Legal Awards. Her most recent book, *Assisted Dying: Reflections on the Need for Law Reform* was awarded the Minty Prize of the Royal Society of Authors and the Royal Society of Medicine in 2008 (her other many publications also include co-authoring *The Case for Physician Assisted Suicide* in 1997)

Edward Turner

Edward Turner is a director of Dignity in Dying, which campaigns for greater patient choice at the end of life, including the option of a medically assisted death. Edward joined the campaign after witnessing the deaths of both his parents from different degenerative neurological illnesses. His father had a traditional death in a nursing home, while his mother had an assisted death at the Dignitas clinic in January 2006. Her story was the subject of the recent BBC drama "A Short Stay in Switzerland". Edward is a Chartered Accountant and lives in London.

John Deighan

John Deighan is the Parliamentary Officer for the Bishops' Conference, a post he has held since 1999. The main focus of his job is dealing with issues at the interface between faith and politics. Prior to that John lectured systems analysis and design at Motherwell College and was an Engineer with Rolls Royce and Babcock. He gained wide experience in the political arena through his involvement in the Trade Union Movement, Pro-Life work, the Movement for Christian Democracy and election campaigning. John is married to Angela, and together they have seven children

Peter Brawley

Peter Brawley is the Manager of the Scottish Personal Assistant Employers Network, a Scotland wide organisation supporting Disabled people employing their own Personal Assistants and managing their Self-Directed Support. He is staunch believer in equal citizenship and the values and principles underpinning the Independent Living Movement. Peter totally opposes the introduction of medically assisted death for various reasons. He is married to Marie, and has two daughters and three grand children.