

General Assembly affirms the report *Assisted Dying*, as encapsulated in the following statements:

1. As Christians we regard all human life as being God given, and therefore precious; we believe that death is not the end and we have faith that there is a more perfect life to follow.
2. We recognise that there is a time to die and that there are circumstances in which it will be wrong to continue to provide treatment designed to prolong life.
3. We recognise that some palliative treatment for the terminally ill, makes the patient more comfortable and pain free, but can also hasten death.
4. We believe this to be acceptable, as long as the primary purpose of the treatment is pain relief and comfort of the patient.
5. We could not support legislation that would empower medical staff to intervene in ways which deliberately seek to assist a patient to die. We would therefore oppose any change in the law to permit voluntary euthanasia or assisted suicide.
6. We believe that a Living Will or Advance Directive which has been prepared by a patient of sound mind, can be helpful for carers and relatives; however we do not believe such a document should be used to facilitate a person's death.
7. We believe that additional resources are needed to provide more uniformly available and more high quality palliative care.
8. We recognise the valuable contribution made by carers. We express our prayerful support for those who work in, and promote hospices, and others who care, befriend and provide support for the dying.