**COUNTRY: SWEDEN**

**COMITTEE: LEGALITY OF EUTHANASIA**

In Sweden passive euthanasia( intentionally letting a patient die by withholding artificial life support such as a ventilator or feeding tube) was deemed legal after a landmark court ruling in 2010. That means a health care professional can legally cease life support upon request from a patient if they understand the consequences stated by their health care provider.The legal position in Sweden concerning euthanasia is that active euthanasia is illegal and regarded as murder. In certain conditions, however, it can get a lenient punishment or go without punishment altogether.Acceleration of death by pain alleviating methods is illegal if it accelerates death more than is necessary to alleviate pain. Passive euthanasia in the form of forbearance to initiate life-sustaining treatment in a hopeless case is legal. If such treatment has been initiated, it ought to be legal to discontinue it, when there is no hope of recovery and death seems imminent. The state of the law on this point is not quite clear.

There is also a religious view to euthanasia.The LCA official statement on euthanasia and mercy killing says: ‘The Church rejects the practice of mercy killing or euthanasia in all its forms, because such killing is contrary to the Word and law of God’. For Christians, our life is never our own. We are creatures owing our very existence to our Creator, and so the taking of our own life is no less grave than that of another.It's also important to note that the Church's opposition to euthanasia does not mean that Christians are obligated to unnecessarily prolong life by taking on burdensome treatments. But any act with the intent of killing or hastening someone's death must be rejected.

Taking everything into account euthanasia is neither legal or illegal in Sweden which creates a problem for suffering patients, their families, health care proffesionals and thousand of other people. We hope to find a solution or a path to be followed by everyone.