 **Legality of Euthanasia**



**Country : Republic of Finland**

**Committee : Legal**

**Delegate : Almila Nehir Öztürk**

As you know in modern terminology, euthanasia is a kind of actively ending a person’s life at their request because of the person’s fatal illness and the insufferable pain it causes.

In our country, active euthanasia is not legal however passive euthanasia is legal. So let’s try to understand what passive euthanasia is and why it is legal in Finland. If a person suffers from a fatal illness like cancer or dementia, let the patient die by withholding artificial life support but not let someone kill the patient voluntarily. So passive euthanasia is not killing a person, it is just letting someone die.

“Euthanasia is currently a hotly debated topic in Finland. A citizen’s proposal for euthanasia was made at the online service on 7 November 2016. The proposal received 63,078 votes and was delivered to the Parliament of Finland in February 2017. The proposal is for Parliament to pass an act legalizing euthanasia in Finland.”

The distinction between killing and letting die is discussed by the Evangelist-Lutheran Church which 70% of Finns are affiliated. The Church objects to all kinds of euthanasia due to the moral basis that all human beings are reflections of God so no one else can determine the destiny of a person.

Besides Church, it is contrary to medical ethics in our country, because “The World Medical Association has consistently and categorically refused to accept the practice of euthanasia and assisted suicide as a justifiable medical activity.”

Shortly, however active euthanasia is forbidden in Finland legally, it is not equally prosecuted as murder. Causing a person’s death doesn’t go unpunished but at the same time, it cannot be equated with murder.

Think that, bad quality of life makes it not worth living, and therefore a person is between life and death suffers lots of physical and mental problems. While, we as Finland evolves of opposing euthanasia by respecting the human life views in the political, religious, and medical world. We also support passive euthanasia by considering the rights of the patient.

Legally in passive euthanasia, we are not part of a murder. Ethically we respect the life of humans but if we do not regard patient rights how can we talk about ethics that means the practice of behaving correctly, being the right person, and thinking about wolves. So as we evaluate political, religious, and medical world views how can we ignore patient rights?