

THE EUTHANASIA DECEPTION

Discussion Guide

1. Euthanasia: *The deliberate killing of someone, with or without that person's consent, in order to eliminate all suffering.* Does this definition relate to your understanding of euthanasia?
2. The Hippocratic Oath states: *I will use treatment to help the sick according to my ability and judgement, but never with a view to injury and wrong-doing. Neither will I administer a poison to anybody when asked to do so, nor will I suggest such a course.*
 - a. Is the Hippocratic Oath designed to protect doctors or patients?
 - b. Why is society disregarding these longstanding directives?
3. Dr. Benoit Beuselinck had a 72 year-old patient who was being treated for cancer and asked for euthanasia. The patient said the treatment was too much for her. Dr. Beuselinck agreed to withdraw treatment. Is there a difference between withdrawing treatment and euthanasia?
4. Dr. Beuselinck said the patient did not want to be a burden on others. What did the patient's daughter say when Dr. Beuselinck asked if she was willing to care for her mother? Did the patient continue asking for euthanasia?
5. According to Dr. Beuselinck, what percentage of assisted deaths are not declared each year in Belgium?
6. Professor Montero said Belgium has a system whereby doctors self-report euthanasia. Is it likely that a doctor will self-report when they abuse the euthanasia law?
7. What happened when Lionel Rosemont was walking with his daughter Tikvah in a park?
8. What did Lionel mean when he said, "It is like a thick black blanket that has descended on the country of Belgium, and that blanket is called euthanasia."?
9. Amy Hasbrouck said, "Virtually every person who is given assisted suicide has a disability whether or not they want to admit it." Have you experienced this in your own life?
10. Mark Pickup said the difficulty with assisted death is that we are not sure what tomorrow will bring, we make the decision based on the grief of today. What was he referring to?

11. Mark Pickup asked, “Which citizens get suicide prevention and which get assisted suicide? I can tell you who it is: people like me get assisted suicide; my healthy neighbour gets suicide prevention. Where is the equality in that?” Do you think that some people with disabilities will die by assisted suicide based on discrimination?
12. What was the circumstance of Tom Mortier’s mother’s euthanasia death in Belgium? Did his mother’s death affect others? Are human beings fully autonomous?
13. How did Hendrik Reitsma’s granddad die? Did the family know the doctors were ending his life?
14. What did Kristina Hodgetts admit to doing as a nurse?
15. Why did one of the nurses write, “What are we doing?”
16. Comment on Kristina’s statement: “There is something fundamentally wrong with taking another human life.”
17. Nurse Sandra Caravaggio said, “Withdrawing or withholding of medical treatment is not the same as causing death.” What does Sandra mean by this?
18. Dr. Catherine Dopchie said, “We will become more vulnerable as a result of the legalization of euthanasia.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
19. Carine Brochier said, “Do not open the door to euthanasia. Once the door is open, it will go more and more wide-open.” Do you think that the wider use of euthanasia can be prevented once legalized?
20. Hendrik Reitsma said, “By opening the door to euthanasia you open a sense of burden.” What does he mean by this statement?
21. Kristina Hodgetts said, “If it wasn’t for my husband speaking for me and saying what I wanted, I wouldn’t be here today.” Can you comment on this statement?
22. Amy Hasbrouck said, “That is where I feel particularly vulnerable because there are times that I feel that I would rather be dead.” Amy is referring to being depressed. Should we be concerned about people who live with depression and why?
23. Steven Passmore said, “If they could brainwash the public to believe that it is a loving and compassionate act to kill, they would win the debate.” Do you think this has happened?
24. Tom Mortier said, “I truly think that euthanasia has nothing to do with medicine.” What do you think Tom meant by this?
25. What does true compassion mean?
26. Have you ever loved someone by caring for them when they were going through the most difficult time in their life? Would you be willing to do this again?