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Islam's Position on Euthanasia

There is no provision in Islam for ending one's life by means of assisted or active euthanasia in order to end the pain or suffering one is enduring.

The Holy Qur'an clearly states: "Do not kill yourselves as God has been to you very merciful" (4:29).

Only God has the right to take your life. Islamic jurisprudence, based on a convincing interpretation of the Holy Quran does not recognise a person's right to kill oneself voluntarily.

It is the duty of the doctors, relatives and the state to take care of the sick and to do their best to reduce their pain and suffering but, under no circumstances are they allowed to end their suffering by ending their lives.

The sick person should patiently endure the pain and pray to Almighty God to bring comfort and blessing into his/her life, because only God is the giver and taker of life.

An adult in full control of his or her faculties is entitled to refuse medical treatment without which that person may die.

Medical experts should exhaust all avenues to reduce the pain and suffering of terminally ill patients whilst maintaining the person's dignity to the greatest degree possible.

All forms of palliative care are permissible except those that clearly contravene Islamic rulings. Thus medications that have the effect of dulling or reducing a person's conscious awareness are acceptable in the state of necessity.

According to Islamic teachings, life is a divine trust and cannot be terminated by any form of active voluntary intervention. All the Islamic scholars, of the past and the present regard euthanasia as forbidden.