THAMES VALLEY EAST MASAAJID COUNCIL

TVMC Upholds Sanctity of Life in Response to Assisted Dying Bill

Thames Valley East Masaajid Council (TVMC) representing 65000 Muslims across 5 parliamentary constituencies in the Thames Valley region expresses its strong disapproval to the Assisted Dying Bill. If enacted, this bill would permit terminally ill adults to seek assistance in ending their own lives, a stance that contradicts Islamic teachings and principles.

Muslim scholars worldwide have consistently reaffirmed Islam's unequivocal position on end-of-life issues and human suffering. According to Islamic law life is a sacred trust from Allah (God), Who tells us clearly in the Qur'an: "**Allah is the One who gives life and causes death**" [*Surah Ali-'Imran, 3:156*]. This principle establishes that humans do not have the right to determine when life should end.

While the bill is presented as a compassionate response to suffering at the end of life, it fundamentally opposes Islamic teachings on the sanctity of life. The Qur'an reminds us that **"every soul will taste death. And We test you ˹O humanity˺ with good and evil as a trial, then to Us you will all be returned."** [*Surah Anbiya, 21:35*].

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ taught us that suffering, though difficult, has meaning: "No Muslim is afflicted by hardship, even by the pricking of a thorn or something more painful, but Allah thereby causes his sins to fall away just as a tree sheds its leaves." [*Bukhari*]

This highlights that suffering, though challenging, can lead to spiritual purification. Another hadith tells us that "The greater the tribulation, the greater is the reward." (*At-Tirmidhi*). This doesn't mean we should seek out suffering or refuse treatment. On the contrary, Islam encourages us to seek cures and relief from pain, but within the framework that upholds the sanctity of life.

TVMC Call to Action

Based on Islamic principles the TVMC urges the following:

1. All **Muslim citizens** to send an email (text below) to their local MP and Members of The House of Lords from their areas to vote against the Assisted Dying Bill becoming law.
2. All **Muslim MPs** to oppose the bill and any similar efforts to normalise assisted dying as an ethical option for medical professionals.
3. All **Muslim medical professionals** directly or indirectly implicated in implementing any aspects of the proposed bill to show their opposition to this bill by writing to their professional bodies and the NHS England.
4. **Muslim Ummah** to stand in total solidarity with other faith communities and pro-life organisations opposing this bill and other attempts to legalise this process.
5. All **Masjids** ensure the main components of the bill are addressed during the Jumma on 29 November.