



## Euthanasia

### The Euthanasia Conundrum

#### Other Countries' Stand

**US :** Euthanasia is illegal but physician-assisted suicide is legal.

**Netherlands and Belgium :** Euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide have been legal since 2001 and 2002 respectively.

**Switzerland and Germany :** Euthanasia is illegal but physician-assisted suicide is legal.

**Japan :** Euthanasia-Unclear (illegal in the Japanese criminal code, but a 1962 court case ruled that one can legally end a patient's life if certain specific conditions are fulfilled; physician-assisted suicide-illegal).

Euthanasia is illegal in the UK, France, Canada and Australia.

#### India's Journey to a Euthanasia Law

**2006 :** The Law Commission of India recommends that the issue of euthanasia be examined by the Union health ministry in consultation with experts. After due deliberation, it is decided not to frame any laws on the subject.

**2011 :** While hearing the **Aruna Shanbaug case**, the Supreme Court passes a landmark judgment legalising passive euthanasia asks the Centre to frame a law to monitor it. The court's guidelines include getting clearance from a medical board and state government, followed by a declaration from a high court.

**2012 :** The Law Commission of India prepares a draft Bill on passive euthanasia and living wills.

**May 2016 :** The union health ministry posts a draft of the **Terminally ill patients (Protection of Patients and Medical Practitioners) Bill** on its website and invites public reactions. The Bill will next need to be passed by both houses of Parliament and the President before it is deemed a law.

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