

# Euthanasia



# Outlines:

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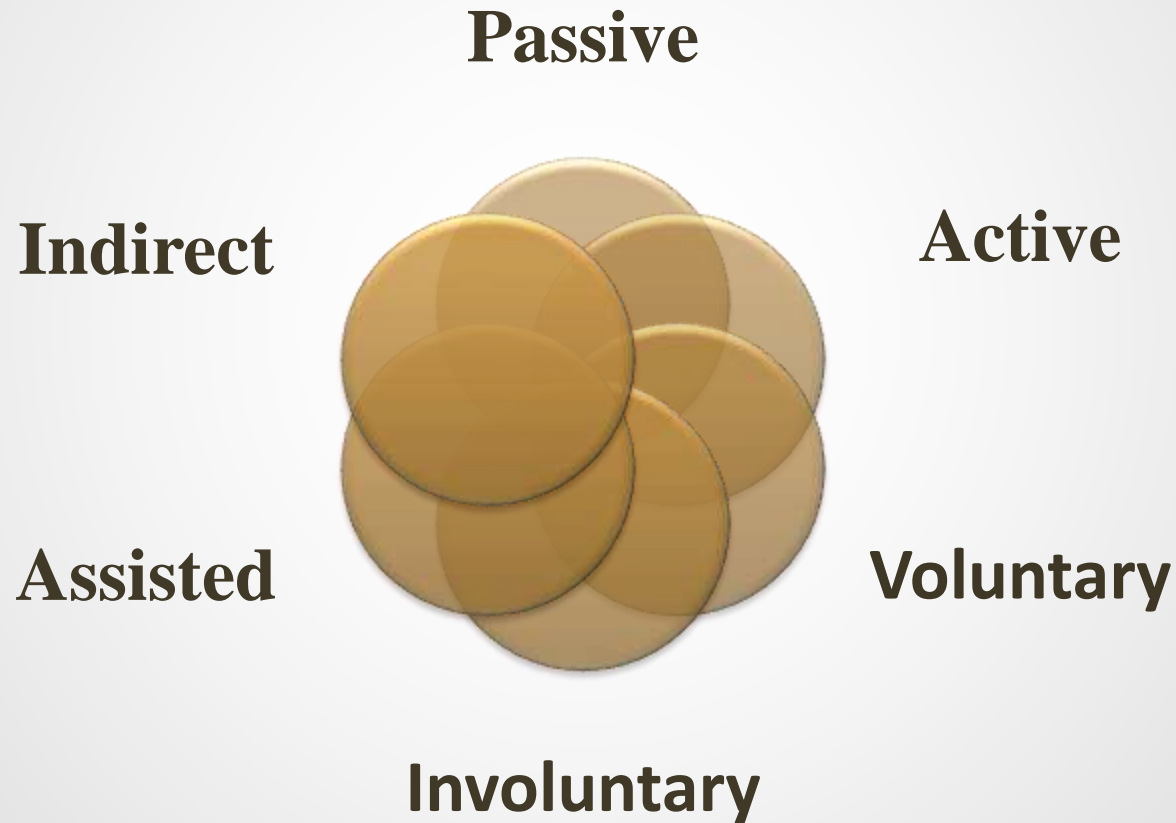
# Introduction



- Euthanasia comes from the Greek words: **Eu (good)** and **Thanatosis (death)** and it means "Good Death, "Gentle and Easy Death." This word has come to be used for "mercy killing.
- It is the act or practice of ending a life of a person either by a lethal injection or suspension of medical treatment.
- The word "euthanasia" was first used in a medical context by Francis Bacon in the 17th century, to refer to an easy, painless, happy death, during which it was a "physician's responsibility to alleviate the 'physical sufferings' of the body



# Types of euthanasia:



- **Active euthanasia:**

- It is when death is brought by an act for example taking a high dose of drugs
- To end a person's life by the use of drugs, either by oneself or by the aid of a physician.

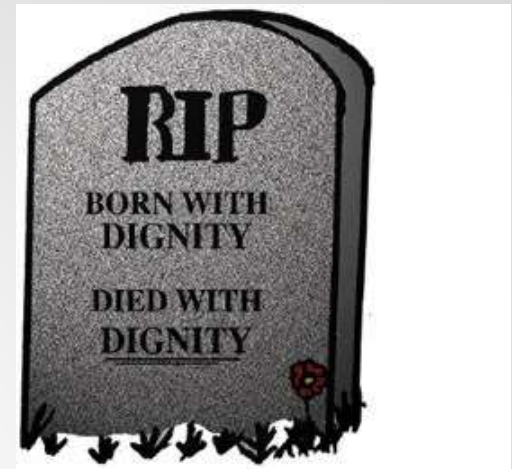


- **Passive euthanasia:**

- When death is brought by an omission eg:  
When someone lets the person die, this can be done by withdrawing or withholding treatment.
- **Withdrawing treatment:** For example switching off a machine that keeps the person alive.
- **Withholding treatment:** For example not carrying out a surgery that will extend life of the patient for a short time.



- **Voluntary euthanasia** is committed with the willing or autonomous cooperation of the subject. This means that the subject is free from direct or indirect pressure from others.
- **Non voluntary euthanasia** occurs when the patient is unconscious or unable to make a meaningful choice between living and dying, and an appropriate person takes that decision for him/her.
- This is usually called murder, but it is possible to imagine cases where the killing would count as a favor for the patient.





- **Indirect euthanasia:**

This means providing treatments -mainly to reduce pain- that has a side effect of shortening the patient's life.

- Since the primary intent wasn't to kill, it is morally accepted by some people.



- **Assisted suicide:**

This usually refers to cases where the persons who are going to die need help to kill themselves and ask for it.

- It may be something as simple as getting drugs for the person, and putting those drugs within their reach.





# History

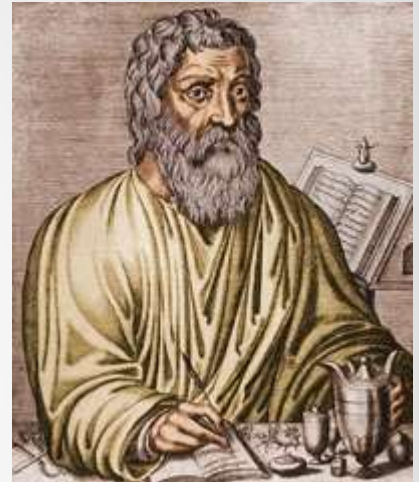


-It is believed that euthanasia **started in ancient Greece and Rome around the fifth century B.C.**

-Some did this by abortions, and every now and then performed a mercy killing even though doctors were supposed to follow the

### **Hippocratic Oath:**

“I will give no deadly medicine to any one if asked, nor suggest any such counsel”.



- During the **Middle Ages**, euthanasia was pretty much out of the question. If one committed suicide, the law in Europe was for the body to be dragged through the streets or nailed to a barrel and left to drift downriver.
- During the **Seventeenth and Eighteenth centuries** euthanasia was a topic of discussion. However, people continued to reject euthanasia and assisted suicide.
- **1478-1535**: Sir Thomas More is often quoted as being the first prominent Christian to recommend euthanasia in his book Utopia, where the Utopian priests encourage euthanasia when a patient was terminally ill and suffering pain

- **1828:** The first law against assisted killing, known as anti-euthanasia was passed in New York.
- **1870:** The use of morphine and analgesic medications for assisting quick and painless death was suggested.
- **1885:** The American Medical Association strongly denied the use of analgesic for euthanasia.
- **1994:** Netherlands it is the first country where euthanasia has been allowed.
- **2001:** The euthanasia law was adopted in Belgium - this law defines conditions for doctors to avoid penal punishment.
- **2008:** U.S. state of Washington legalizes assisted suicide

# Laws

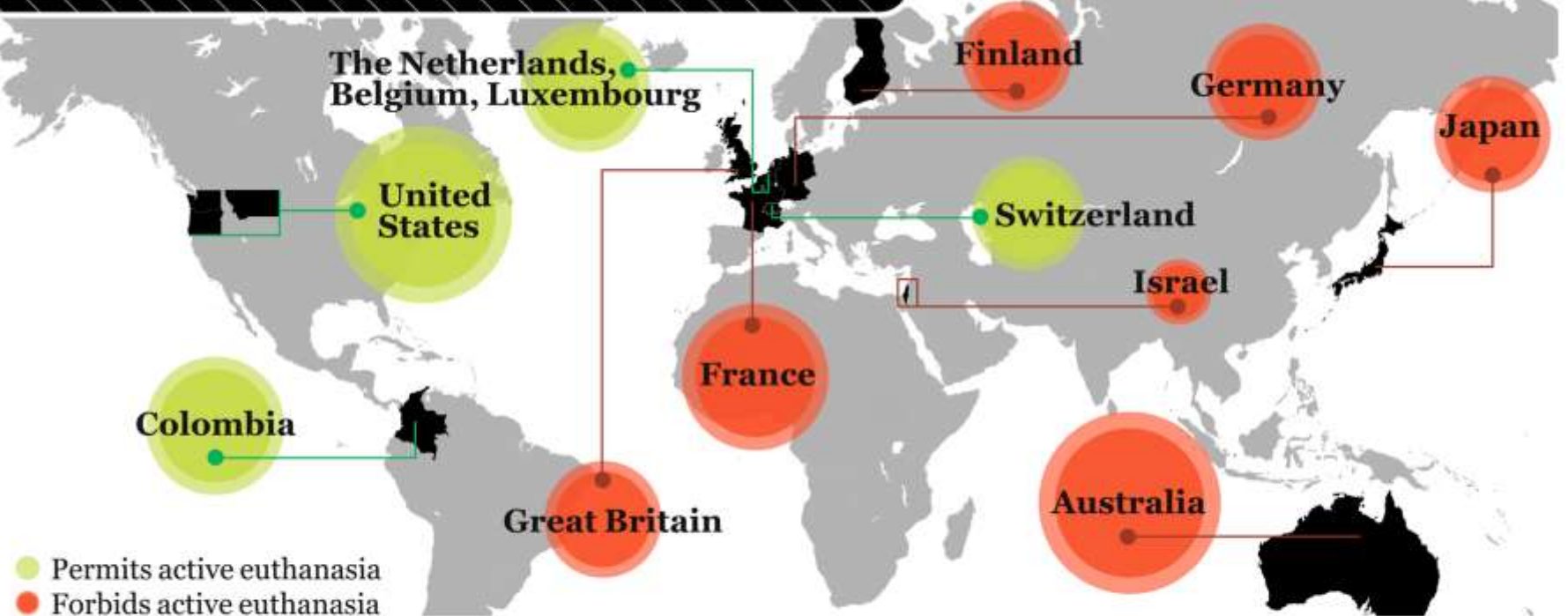


- In **Europe**, Euthanasia is only legal in the **Netherlands** and **Belgium**, provided certain conditions are met.
- **For example**, the patient's request must be voluntary and well considered; the patient must be suffering unbearable physical or mental suffering, with no prospect of relief the patient must be informed about their situation and prospects; at least one other, independent, doctor must be consulted.
- In **Belgium** euthanasia is only allowed if the patient is an adult.
- However, in the **Netherlands** euthanasia is allowed for children aged between 12 and 16 years of age, with the consent of their parents/guardians and for individuals aged 16 years and over.

- Assisted suicide is legal in the **Netherlands** , **Switzerland** and the **state of oregon in the US** but have certain conditions eg : the patient must be considered competent and aware of their situation .
- **In Japan** : Only " **passive** " **euthanasia is permitted** for patients who have been in a Coma for more than 3 months
- While in **Egypt** , or in **Islamic countries** in general , the popular Egyptians' Scholar Sheikh , recently issued a fatwa . equating euthanasia with murder but allowing the with-holding of treatment that is deemed useless.



# Euthanasia laws around the world



## Japan

Only "passive" euthanasia is permitted (non-prolongation of life) for patients who have been in a coma for more than three months

## Germany

Euthanasia is defined as murder, due to the large number of cases under the Nazi regime

## Finland

Passive euthanasia is permitted for anyone who has declared a desire for it in advance

## France

A stormy debate erupted a few years ago following the suicide of a patient who had conducted a public struggle for her right to euthanasia

## The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg

Assisted suicide is performed by doctors based on a patient's request while he or she is still conscious

## Australia

Euthanasia was approved in the northern district in 1995, but the decision was overturned shortly afterwards by the central government

## Great Britain

The legislature has rejected any initiative on the issue

## United States

In Washington and Oregon, a doctor can prescribe a substance that the patient can purchase in a pharmacy

## Colombia

Euthanasia was approved in 1997; due to pressure from the church doctors could perform assisted suicide starting in 2012

## Switzerland

The only country that permits euthanasia for foreign citizens

# Religions



Those in favor of euthanasia argue that a civilized society should allow people to die in dignity and without pain.

They add that as suicide is not a crime, euthanasia should not be a crime.

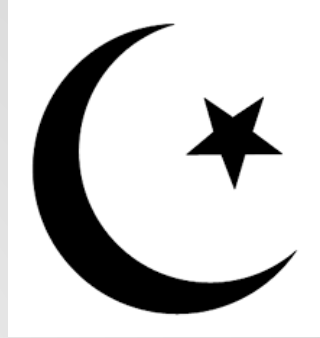
**Most religions disapprove of euthanasia for a number of reasons:**

- 1- God has forbidden it ( that says 'you must not kill').
- 2- Human life is sacred.
- 3- human beings are made in God's image.
- 4- God gives people life, so only God has the right to take it away.

- **Religious views on euthanasia:**

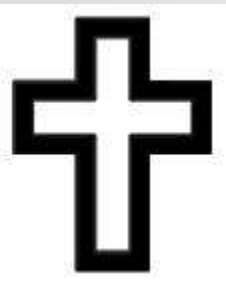
- **A-Islam:**

- Muslims are against euthanasia. They believe that all human life is sacred because it is given by Allah, and that Allah chooses how long each person will live. IMANA ( the Islamic Medical Association of America ) say that turning off life support for deemed to be in a persistent vegetative state is permissible. This is because they consider all mechanical life support procedures as temporary measures.



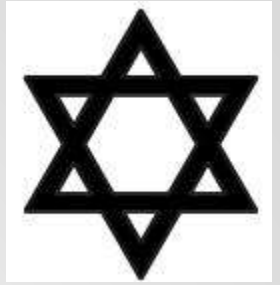
- **B-Christianity:**

-Christians are mostly against euthanasia. The arguments are usually based on the beliefs that life is given by God, and that human beings are made in God's image. Some churches also emphasize the importance of not interfering with the natural process of death. Life is a gift from God Christianity requires us to respect every human being.



## C- Judaism:

Jewish medical ethics have become divided, over euthanasia and end of life treatment since the 1970s. Generally, Jewish thinkers oppose voluntary euthanasia, often vigorously, though there is some backing for voluntary passive euthanasia in limited circumstances.



## D- Shinto:

In Japan, where the dominant religion is Shinto, 69% of the religious organizations agree with the act of voluntary passive euthanasia. In Shinto, the prolongation of life using artificial means is a disgraceful act against life





## E- Buddhism:

- An important value of Buddhism teaching is compassion. Compassion is used by some Buddhists as a justification for euthanasia because the person suffering is relieved of pain.
- However, it is still immoral "to embark on any course of action whose aim is to destroy human life, irrespective of the quality of the individual's motive."



# Cases





- **1-Gloria Taylor:**

(1948 - October 4, 2012)



- Taylor was a postal worker, residential care worker, motorbike enthusiast and health advocate. She was born and raised in Castlegar, British Columbia, Canada.
- Taylor began to experience the early symptoms of Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease in 2003.  
A neurologist diagnosed her with the disease in 2009.
- On June 29, 2011 Gloria filed an application with The Supreme Court Of British Columbia to be added as a plaintiff in the BC Civil Liberties' Association (BCCLA) death with dignity lawsuit.

- The BCCLA had filed the lawsuit in April 2011 to challenge the laws that make it a criminal offense to assist seriously incurably ill individuals to die with dignity. The legal challenge seeks to allow seriously and incurably ill, mentally competent adults the right to receive medical assistance to hasten death under certain specific safeguards
- Gloria Taylor, told reporters in Vancouver she doesn't want to die, but she also doesn't want to die an agonizing and horrible death. She also says she's fighting so that all the people of Canada will have the choice in the way they want to die.

- Taylor had won a constitutional exemption at a lower court for a medically assisted death in 2012, but that decision was overturned in subsequent appeals
- On **October 4, 2012**, Taylor died as a result of a severe infection resulting from a perforated colon.
- Due to the acute nature and brief course of her illness from the infection, **Taylor did not need to seek the assistance of a physician to end her life.**
- In the end, Gloria's death was quick and peaceful. Taylor died in hospital, with her mother and a close friend by her side.
- The B.C. Civil Liberties Association will be continuing with the death with dignity lawsuit, fighting to protect Taylor's victory against government appeals.



- **2-Craig Ewert:**



- Craig Ewert 59, was a retired college professor who was diagnosed with **motor neuron disease (MND)**, a neurodegenerative kind that affects the nervous system and could lead to difficulty in gripping, walking, swallowing, speaking and breathing.
- He decided to end his life rather than spend the rest of his life in a “living tomb” ,Since euthanasia is still illegal in Britain, he traveled to Switzerland to die assisted by the Dignitas **clinic in Zurich in September 2006**.
- He was already 5 months paralyzed prior to **his televised death**, his last moments was shown on the Sky Real Lives Channel live, he first said goodbye to his wife, drank the poison, asked for an apple juice, requested for Beethoven’s symphony no.9, said thank you, and died peacefully.

### 3- Frank Van Den Bleeken:





- Frank Van Den Bleeken was a Belgian convicted of serial murder and rape who has been imprisoned for almost three decades. He was temporarily released and convicted other brutal convictions.
- He sought the right to die because he was "suffering unbearably" from his psychiatric condition
- Unable to control his urges, the convict had no prospect of living in freedom.
- "He has clearly said that he didn't want to leave prison because he didn't want to risk creating further victims," he said. Seeing himself as a danger to society, he could "no longer live like that", his lawyer said.
- After doctors agreed that his psychological condition is incurable, Belgium's justice minister approved his transfer to a hospital where doctors will end his life on January 11, 2015.
- But on January 6, the justice minister announced that Van Den Bleekin's "right to die" was **withdrawn by his doctors**. He was instead transferred to a psychiatric prison ward.

# Conclusion



# Summary of the presentation:

## -Definition of euthanasia:

It is the practice of intentionally ending a life in order to relieve pain and suffering.

## -Rules of euthanasia:

It's not possible to regulate euthanasia

## -Religions:

Islam-Christianity-Judaism –Shinto and Buddhism.

Euthanasia in Egypt Is forbidden on humans but applied on "Street Dogs?...

**-Vote:**

- What is your opinion about euthanasia?

**-End:**

- Do you have any questions related to the presentation?.

# Thank You!

## Any questions?