



Lawmakers in U.K. move to legalize assisted dying

Preliminary vote on measure modeled after Oregon’s follows hours of emotional debate

BY KARLA ADAM

LONDON — British lawmakers on Friday voted in favor of a bill to legalize assisted dying in England and Wales — a move that could usher in one of the most dramatic social changes this country has seen in years, arguably since the decriminalization of abortion in 1967.

The bill, largely modeled after a law in Oregon, would apply to terminally ill patients who are expected to die within six months, can demonstrate a clear wish and can administer the fatal cocktail of drugs themselves. They would have to get approval from two doctors and a high court judge. If their request is approved, they could seek a prescription through the National Health Service.

Lawmakers voted 330 to 275 after a five-hour debate in the House of Commons that was emotional but also respectful. They shared personal stories and wrestled with questions about how to alleviate suffering, protect vulnerable people and improve end-of-life care.

The vote was a free one, meaning lawmakers didn’t have to vote along party lines. The bill still faces months of further scrutiny and procedural hurdles. But there’s a good chance that it will become law.

Opening the debate, Kim Leadbeater, the Labour lawmaker championing the bill, said it would give dying people “choice, autonomy and dignity.” She conceded that it wasn’t an easy decision. “But if any of us wanted an easy life, I’m afraid we are in the wrong place,” she added.

More than 160 lawmakers asked to speak, and activists from both sides gathered outside Parliament with signs.

In impassioned remarks, Labour lawmaker Diane Abbott said she opposed the bill because it might pressure people who felt they could be a burden to pursue assisted dying. “I can imagine myself saying that, in particular circumstances,” she said.

David Davies, a Conservative lawmaker, explained how he changed his mind and was voting in favor of the bill because “I’m a believer in the sanctity of life ... but I’m also an antagonist to torture and misery at the end of life.”

The British government is among several in Europe that have considered relaxing their prohibitions on assisted dying.

Nancy Preston, a palliative care expert at Lancaster University who has given evidence to parliamentary committees in Britain and Ireland, said interest “really picked up during the pandemic.” Some of that, she said, came from people witnessing a bad death “and then feeling, well, I want the option of that not happening with me.”

Austria, Spain and Portugal passed

SEE ASSISTED DYING ON A9

April 16, 2019



CHRISTOPHE PETIT TESSON/POOL/AP

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STEPHANE DE SAKUTIN/POOL/AP

TOP: Debris is piled in front of Notre Dame’s altar after a fire badly damaged the 800-year-old Paris landmark. ABOVE: The altar was painstakingly restored, along with the church’s vaulted stonework and marble floors.

From the ashes, Notre Dame is reborn

Cathedral’s ‘metamorphosis’ is unveiled after an ambitious five-year restoration effort

BY ELLEN FRANCIS

PARIS — Notre Dame’s stone vaults, its checkered floor and its golden altar cross were gleaming. As the world got a first look inside the restored cathedral since the 2019 fire that gutted it, Friday’s tour guide was President Emmanuel Macron.

The French leader led a televised

walk through the site of a herculean restoration effort on his final visit before the Parisian landmark officially reopens Dec. 7.

Even as political turmoil threatens to topple the French government, and even with the country’s finances in shambles, the moment was a triumph of sorts for Macron. In April 2019 — after the fire that toppled the spire,

consumed the roof and covered everything that survived with debris — Macron pledged, to much incredulity, that the cathedral would be rebuilt in five years and that it would be “even more beautiful.”

The cathedral has been faithfully, painstakingly re-created using traditional techniques. But the brightness

SEE NOTRE DAME ON A8

Trump set to collide with court he molded

AGENDA WILL TEST LIMITS OF PRESIDENTIAL POWER

Justices’ shift right could mean more success than in first term

BY JUSTIN JOUVENAL AND ANN E. MARIMOW

Donald Trump’s greatest legacy is arguably the conservative supermajority he created on the Supreme Court. His second term could put him on a collision course with the institution he reshaped.

With Republican allies controlling the House and Senate, the Supreme Court could emerge as the most likely check on the president-elect’s promise to assert sweeping powers — in ways that could test the boundaries of the law and the Constitution.

If pursued, Trump’s controversial agenda to deport undocumented immigrants en masse, end birthright citizenship, impose extensive tariffs, fire or relocate thousands of federal workers and abolish the Education Department would surely unleash a flood of legal challenges.

Trump has lost at the Supreme Court more than any other modern president, according to one study, and several recent high court rulings that curbed the power of regulatory agencies could hem in his agenda. At the same time, Trump’s three nominees have moved the Supreme Court further to the right, establishing a supermajority that greatly expanded the definition of presidential immunity.

Legal scholars and advocates say they expect Trump to suffer additional legal

SEE TRUMP ON A4

Magnet for justices: Court’s conservatives flock to Notre Dame’s law school. **A3**

Ethics: Trump’s choice of his attorney for a Justice post might present issues. **A4**

Inflation concerns: Tariffs could quickly raise prices for food, cars and gas. **A11**

Texas wants to be at center of crackdown on migrants

BY MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE AND ARELIS R. HERNÁNDEZ

EAGLE PASS, TEX. — While Donald Trump’s opponents denounce the president-elect’s planned “mass deportations” and border crackdown, this state’s Republican leaders are vying to make Texas the launching pad.

Gov. Greg Abbott and other top officials have spent the past four years positioning themselves as the Biden administration’s greatest antagonists — and heirs to the border enforcement campaign begun by the last Trump administration. Despite having no constitutional authority on immigration enforcement, they have used tools of the state to dramatically escalate anti-immigrant policy and legislation locally while steering a similar narrative nationally.

Among their moves: pumping \$11 billion into Abbott’s Operation Lone Star border enforcement, busing migrants to distant states and targeting organizations that advocate for them. All marked a clear departure from the “compassionate conservatism” of a Texas GOP that once granted in-state tuition to undocumented students and resettled thousands of refugees.

And Trump’s imminent return to the White House gives the state powerful

SEE BORDER ON A6

After Helene, aid groups work to stave off evictions

‘Second avalanche’ prolongs western N.C.’s economic pain

BY BRADY DENNIS AND SARAH KAPLAN

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — Asia Aiken sat with an eviction notice in her hand and weariness on her face.

Like many others, she had come to Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church to seek help with housing after Hurricane Helene battered this region. Aiken, a 21-year-old Asheville native, was already a half month behind on rent when the storm struck, shuttering the sandwich shop where she works and putting her in an even deeper hole. Now, two weeks after she had gone to court for an eviction hearing, she had only days to vacate her home.

“I’m really sorry this is happening,” Pastor Marcia Mount Shoop said, coming around a table to hold Aiken’s hand. “It’s fine,” Aiken said, sounding defeated.

“It’s not fine,” the pastor replied. “It’s awful.”

Here in Buncombe County, one of the regions hit hardest by Helene, dozens of people perished from sudden mudslides and raging rivers. Hundreds of families lost their homes. Roads, bridges and livelihoods were washed away in a matter of hours.

But even after the floodwaters receded, the economic fallout has continued. The tourism that forms the foundation

SEE HELENE ON A5



ALLISON JOYCE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Marcia Mount Shoop at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, which has doubled as a donation and aid center since Helene tore through western North Carolina.

IN THE NEWS

Rebel surge in Syria A militant group’s rapid advance into Aleppo, the nation’s largest city, came as a surprise and redrew the front lines in the 13-year civil war. **A7**

An adoptee’s trek A piece of paper seeded an idea that a D.C. woman would act on decades later: to seek the mother she never knew. **B1**

THE NATION

RFK Jr. could “cost lives” by discouraging vaccination, a former FDA chief warned. **A2**
Several Democratic lawmakers were targeted with threats, Rep. Hakeem Jeffries said. **A2**

THE WORLD

Mexico moved to shut down seven watchdog agencies, sparking fears for its democracy. **A8**
A Chinese journalist and Harvard fellow was sentenced by Beijing to seven years. **A9**

THE ECONOMY

Four alternatives for e-books and audiobooks for those who want to avoid using Amazon’s Kindle and Audible this holiday season. **A10**
Retailers are rolling out their biggest deals of the year, in-store and online, to entice inflation-weary shoppers. **A11**

THE REGION

The D.C. Council this week voted to shield the city from liability over shoddily constructed condos that left dozens of people displaced. **B1**
D.C.’s cricket team has no place to play locally. Its owner is lobbying for a spot at the RFK Stadium site. **B1**

STYLE

“Beatles ’64” gives viewers an experience that is more comfortable than revelatory, Chris Richards writes. **C1**

SPORTS

Zak Brown, a self-made scrapper, in a rapid turnaround has led McLaren Racing to the cusp of an F1 title. **D1**

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