

Right to Die in International Human Rights Documents

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Abstract

The modern right to die discourse –in the sense of having right, and not necessarily being right, regardless of its moral content, has nowadays been turned into a duty-based concept, instead of something related to good and evil, and accordingly it has been in conformity with some rights and freedoms mentioned in human rights instruments, and contrary with some others. The opponents, affirming the sanctity of life and limited autonomy and liberty of man, are worried about probable abuses of this right and some of them go even too much further than this and equalize it to homicide. On the other hand, the proponents emphasize on human liberty and moral agency, inherent dignity, and his right to decide for his own private life.

This article has surveyed international human rights instruments, to find even an implicit recognition of right to die in the light of other aforementioned rights, and to demonstrate what would be the obligations of states in order to recognize this right.

Keywords:

Right to Die, Inherent Dignity, Right to Respect for Private and Family life, Right to non-discrimination, Prohibition of Torture and other Inhuman or Degrading Treatments.