

How could we group these items?

- New-born baby
- Healthy chimpanzee
- 6 year old human child
- Rock
- Adult dolphin
- Brain-damaged human baby
- Bacteria
- Goldfish
- Human being in a coma
- Flies
- Foetus in the womb
- Weed
- Tree
- Highly intelligent human
- Rose bush
- Dead branch
- Llama

How did you
rank them?



Ethical debates: Euthanasia

We will be looking at the ethics behind euthanasia.

We will look at different opinions from ethical believers and believers of different religious beliefs.

We will consider the relationship between euthanasia and hospice care

We need to be careful when having this kind of conversation, so we avoid hurting or insulting people – whether they are in the room or not.



Think
before you
speak.



Allow others
to
contribute.



Listen to and
respect other
people's
opinions –
especially if they
are different to
your own.

Sentience

Sentience is the capacity to reason and feel pain or pleasure.

Look again at the list.

Which are sentient and which are not.

Are there some who are more sentient than others?

- New-born baby
- Healthy chimpanzee
- 6 year old human child
- Rock
- Adult dolphin
- Brain-damaged human baby
- Bacteria
- Goldfish
- Human being in a coma
- Flies
- Foetus in the womb
- Weed
- Tree
- Highly intelligent human
- Rose bush
- Dead branch
- Llama

Over the last few weeks you have had the chance to think through some of the arguments for and against euthanasia, and about the different forms of euthanasia that exist. Here is a quick reminder of some of the arguments...



Arguments for

It allows a more dignified death.

It allows a patient to die without pain.

Medical staff can dedicate their time to patients who have a chance of recovery.

It can relieve the burden on the family.

It may reduce medical costs.

It is kinder for the patient because it does not prolong suffering.

Arguments against

New medicines could become available to cure previously incurable illnesses.

Doctors have signed the Hippocratic Oath. It is unfair to ask them to euthanise patients.

No one has the right to make a judgement on the value of another person's life.

Euthanasia is a big concern for many religious believers.

Some people feel pressurised into choosing euthanasia.

The hospice movement provides alternative palliative care and ensures patients have a good quality of life before they die.

Christianity



'You shall not murder.'
(Exodus 20:13, NIV)

Life is a sacred gift from God and should not be interfered with. However, some Christians believe that the Bible teaches compassion and respect. Therefore, someone should not be forced to suffer unnecessarily.

Deliberately ending a life could interfere with the natural course of a soul's departure when it leaves the body to join God.

The Catholic Church is strongly opposed to euthanasia and believes that it is a crime against life.

Judaism



'There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life.'
(Deuteronomy 32:39, NIV)

Only God has the right to give life and take it away, even when it has become a burden rather than a blessing.

Although Judaism is opposed to voluntary euthanasia and suicide, some Jews believe that passive euthanasia is permissible if they think further treatment will prevent the natural departure of the soul or cause suffering. Relief of pain and suffering is a key theme in Jewish teachings.

Islam



'And it is not [possible] for one to die except by permission of God at a decree determined.'
(Surah 3:145)

All human life is given by Allah, and Allah decides how long each person will live. Life is a test, and all those suffering should turn to Allah, whom they trust will help them understand the reasons why on the Day of Judgement.

However, in circumstances where death is inevitable, the patient should be allowed to die without unnecessary procedures.



Watch this...

[A video message by
The Duchess of
Cambridge to support
Children's Hospice
Week – YouTube](#)

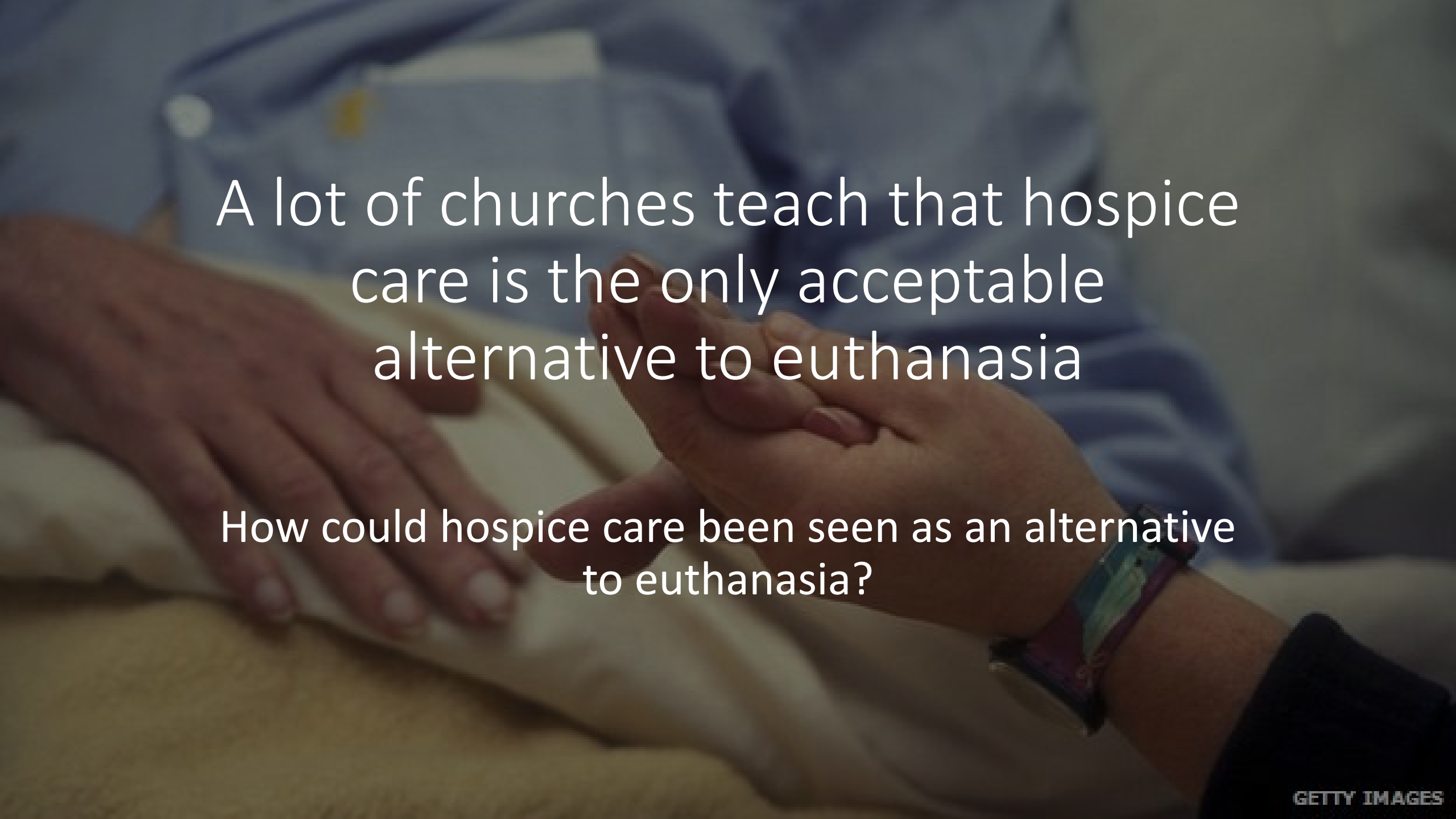
As you are watching
consider what a
hospice is.

PALLIATIVE CARE

- Palliative care means caring for people by **controlling their pain** through drug treatments and personal support.
- **The hospice movement** provides all of the **medical and emotional facilities** needed to ease a dying patient.



- Note: hospices don't just care for people at the end of life, but also people with life-altering conditions and chronic pain.



A lot of churches teach that hospice care is the only acceptable alternative to euthanasia

How could hospice care be seen as an alternative to euthanasia?

What do you think?

- Should any kind of euthanasia be allowed in this country?
- Should hospice care be the main focus of money and energies?

- Active euthanasia is when a doctor ends a patient's life by, for example, administering a legal injection
- Passive euthanasia is not doing anything to stop the death of a person. It is when a doctor withholds any treatment that will prolong the life of a patient.
- Voluntary euthanasia is a patient's desire to end their life and it is clearly their decision to die
- Involuntary euthanasia is where the patient has is not able to say whether they want to die. The decision is made by doctors or relatives.