

Organ Donation - A gift, not a Right: Human Transplantation (Wales) Bill

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

Assalamu Alaikum, (Peace be upon you)

The response to the Welsh Government's consultation to introduce the soft opt-out system for consent to deceased organ and tissue donation in Wales was an over-whelming "NO". It is a matter of concern that despite this the matter is being pursued.

This means that a person's consent to donation will be deemed to have been given unless they objected during their lifetime - a process called opting out. If a post mortem is required permission of the relatives is sought (even in case of medico-legal PMs the relatives are informed as sensitively as possible). The discovery that hundreds of organs had been stored at hospitals following post-mortems on children was followed by public apology for organ and tissue retention without permission.

It is a matter of great concern that legislation is being considered to remove organs without permission from the deceased. If it was **unethical** then it remains unethical now.

Organ 'donation' is considered as a free gift that an individual makes through informed choice in order to help another fellow human even after death. Removal of organs from the deceased without permission is neither a donation nor a gift. We support informing and encouraging individuals to make informed personal choice. The current legislation allows individuals to do this and should therefore be retained.

It is morally not acceptable to bring about the mutilation of a human being even in order to delay the death of another person without true consent by the person during their life. Presumed consent' is not consent. The body has dignity even after death; removal of organs without explicit consent is an assault.

The Muslim Council of Britain(MCB) appeal to Muslims, particularly Welsh Muslims to write to their Members of the Assembly to oppose and drop this bill.

With Best Regards,

Dr Shuja Shafi,

Deputy Secretary General and Chair of the Food Standards and Health Committee

The Muslim Council of Britain (MCB)

The Muslim Council of Britain is the UK's largest Muslim umbrella body with over 500 affiliated national, regional and local organisations, mosques, charities and schools.

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