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Tuesday, March 8th, 2016

## **CANADIAN COUNCIL OF IMAMS ENDORSES THE VULNERABLE PERSONS STANDARD**

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The Vulnerable Persons Standard was developed by a group of advisors with expertise in medicine, ethics, law, public policy and needs of vulnerable persons. The Standard balances equitable access to physician-assisted dying with important safeguards to protect vulnerable people.

Today we are pleased to announce that the [Canadian Council of Imams](#) has endorsed the Standard and will be promoting it with their members. With this endorsement, the Canadian Council of Imams has joined our call to Parliamentarians to ensure that the Standard's safeguards are incorporated into federal legislation concerning physician-assisted dying.

Dr. Mohammad Iqbal Alnadvi, Chair of the Canadian Council of Imams, says, "We urge Parliamentarians to be guided by this Standard, which achieves the balance needed between respect for choice, and our core values and obligations to respect and respond to human vulnerability. Islamic values insist on protection of life, and do every thing to save it."

To learn more about the more than 30 organizations supporting the Standard, please visit us at [www.vps-npv.ca](http://www.vps-npv.ca).

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### **DID YOU KNOW:**

The Vulnerable Persons Standard is rooted in the Supreme Court of Canada's conclusion that a "properly administered regulatory regime is capable of

protecting the vulnerable from abuse and error."

People who request a physician-assisted death can be motivated by a range of factors unrelated to their medical condition or prognosis. These factors make some people vulnerable to request an assisted death when what they want and deserve is better treatment - to have their needs for care, respect and palliative and other supports better met. The Supreme Court of Canada recognized this reality. While it found that the absolute ban on assisted suicide breached a suffering person's right to autonomy in some cases, it also found that an exception to the ban could make some people vulnerable to abuse and error. Therefore, access to physician-assisted death must be balanced by our moral and constitutional duties to protect vulnerable persons who have unmet needs.

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### IN THE NEWS:

Read [Jean Vanier's message to Canadians on fragility and physician-assisted dying](#)

Read the latest Globe and Mail editorial:

[Assisted Death: Recognize this new right, but carefully limit it](#)

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The Vulnerable Persons Standard is a series of evidence-based safeguards intended to protect the lives of Canadians. These safeguards will help to ensure that Canadians requesting assistance from physicians to end their life can do so without jeopardizing the lives of vulnerable persons who may be subject to coercion and abuse.

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