

**IPSCommons Series of Debates:  
Is it Time for Singapore to Consider a “Right-to-Die” Bill?**

IPSCommons — a website by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) that showcases and promotes rational discussion of public policy — is launching a debate series. Each debate will be helmed by two individuals known for their research or informed opinions on public policy issues. They will come from academia, public policy, civil society and the private sector. The first debate will start on 15 September 2014, and will pit Professor Tommy Koh against Bishop Emeritus Robert Solomon.

Professor Koh, IPS Special Adviser and Ambassador-at-Large, will argue why Singapore should consider a “right-to-die” bill, and Bishop Emeritus Solomon, who is from the Methodist Church in Singapore, will disagree with this view.

This topic of whether Singapore should think about laws to allow assisted dying is timely. While Singapore has yet to legalise assisted dying (the collective term for euthanasia and assisted suicide), other countries have allowed it or are considering doing so. As the Singapore population ages, with chronic diseases as a major contributing source of illness and death, should we explore allowing terminally ill individuals to plan their own deaths? Would such a move empower these individuals, or be misused?

In public discussions, the opposition to assisted dying is often framed as a commitment to the sanctity of life versus a belief in the freedom of choice. Professor Koh and Bishop Emeritus Solomon will draw on these arguments and lend their own unique perspectives to why people should — or should not — be allowed to decide when to die.

IPSCommons invites you to join the conversation at <http://www.ipscommons.sg/debate> from 15 September 2014.

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*If you have comments or feedback, please email [ips.eneews@nus.edu.sg](mailto:ips.eneews@nus.edu.sg)*

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