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Dear Visit Jersey

We wish you a very happy feast of Saint Valentine.

This is no doubt a very busy time for you. As people celebrate the Patron Saint of love and marriage, the island of Jersey will be welcoming a large number of visitors this week.

Indeed, a recent advertising campaign described Jersey as “the original island of love”. Given the beautiful coast and countryside of the island it is easy to see why.

We’re writing to you because we want to make sure that the island’s stunning scenery continues to be what people think about when they imagine Jersey.

As you know, moves are underway that would make assisted suicide lawful on Jersey. We are deeply concerned about what this change would mean for vulnerable people on the island, as well as for the doctors and nurses who are responsible for their care.

In a survey of our members and supporters, 88% of responders said that introducing assisted suicide would make it harder for Catholics and other people of faith to enter the medical profession. We submitted our findings in response to the most recent consultation on the proposals.

Our concern is that changing the law would undermine the dignity of life and the right of people to live free from fear – turning Jersey from the island of love into the island of death.

Being the first place in the British Isles to introduce assisted suicide would certainly put Jersey on the map, but for all the wrong reasons.

This Valentine’s Day we’re asking you to speak to your colleagues in the Government of Jersey and urge them to pause and consider this extremely dangerous step. It’s not too late to rethink these plans and make palliative care the focus of how the island supports those who are terminally ill.

Let’s continue to make Jersey the island of love.

Yours faithfully

Nigel Parker
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