



World Youth Alliance supports the Duke of Luxembourg's Decision to Veto Euthanasia Legislation

Wednesday, December 17, 2008 (Brussels): On Tuesday, December 2, 2008, the Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg, threatened to veto proposed legislation that would legalize euthanasia in Luxembourg. The legislation had its first reading back in February of 2008, and was set to pass this week but for the Grand Duke's veto power. In response to the Grand Duke's announcement, the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Jean-Claude Juncker, said he would support a constitutional amendment that would remove the veto power from the Grand Duke. On December 11th, the deputies voted for this amendment which would allow the Parliament to function independently of the monarchy, with the Grand Duke exercising merely a symbolic role in the passing of laws in Luxembourg.

Africa

The World Youth Alliance, a global coalition of young people promoting the dignity of the human person, wishes to express its support of the Grand Duke of Luxembourg in his action of conscience. Dignity, or intrinsic worth, is inherent in human beings and euthanasia is a violation of that dignity. WYA thanks the Grand Duke for recognizing this fact by being willing to exercise his veto power over the proposed legislation.

Asia Pacific

Europe

Latin America

North America

The young people of the world, and especially of Europe and Luxembourg, stand with Grand Duke Henri in opposing any measure that seeks to compromise human dignity by legalizing the elimination of human beings who are no longer seen as "useful" to society. We stress that each human being has inestimable worth from conception to natural death, and that it is the duty of the state to protect human life at all stages.

If you wish to send a letter of support to Grand Duke Henri, please visit our website for more information (www.wya.net).

World Youth Alliance is a global coalition of young people committed to promoting the dignity of the person and building solidarity among youth from developed and developing nations. WYA trains young people to work at regional and international levels to impact policy and culture. WYA represents about 15.000 individual members through its 5 regional offices in Africa (Nairobi), Asia-Pacific (Manila), Europe (Brussels), Latin-America (Mexico) and North-America (New York). In Europe, WYA gathers around 3.000 members and 60 youth-organizations.

For more information:

- contact Francois Jacob, World Youth Alliance – Europe, Rue Belliard 23 A 1040 Brussels, Belgium, Tel +32 2 732 7605, Fax +32 2 732 7889, europa@wya.net,
- check www.wya.net for photos and details on WYA.