

POLICY PLAN 2020 Stichting De Vredige Pil

Vision & Mission of De Vredige Pil

The vision and mission of Stichting De Vredige Pil is to raise public awareness of end of life options for people in their later years who are not terminally ill and who do not qualify for euthanasia in the Netherlands.

De Vredige Pil believes that it is the fundamental human right of older adults of sound mind to make informed decisions about when and how they might bring their lives to an elective end in a way that is peaceful, dignified and reliable.

De Vredige Pil places a special emphasis upon older people who describe themselves as having a 'completed life' belief.

This cohort believe that they have lived long enough and that they should be free to seek a dignified death at a time and place of their choosing.

De Vredige Pil supports these people in finding accurate, up-to-date information which can bring about informed decision-making about end of life choices.

Ways to achieve the goals of De Vredige Pil

A) Publication of a Website & Telephone Service to provide information, referrals and advice in regard to lawful, voluntary peaceful dying (VPD).

The website offers information, news reports, related academic articles and opinion on voluntary peaceful dying. The website references and links to relevant books, support and advocacy groups/ networks in the Netherlands as well as external organisations (eg. in Switzerland) that offer voluntary assisted dying services.

In particular, the website and telephone service provide information on the Swiss assisted dying service Pegasos Swiss Association in Basel that is open to Dutch nationals (and other foreigners).

De Vredige Pil works closely with Pegasos to ensure that interested Dutch people:

- are well informed about what is involved when seeking a voluntary assisted death in Switzerland
- have fully considered their options within the Netherlands before turning their attention to travelling to Switzerland
- to balance the moral imperative of respecting an older person's right to self-determination in regard to planning their end of life with ensuring the person is never placed in a vulnerable situation where they are at risk of exploitation in any way.

B) Quality Policy

De Vredige Pil continuously ensures that the information it provides via its website and phone service is up to date and relevant to those who make contact. Volunteers are expected to stay up to date with public social debate on the international context and to impart accurate, timely and relevant information and referrals as they deem appropriate.

C) Contribution to Scientific Research for the Benefit of the Social Awareness.

De Vredige Pil works with Exit International to conduct occasional surveys and other research aimed at gauging stakeholder sentiment about the 'completed life' belief as it pertains to end of life decision making among the very old. The results are used to fine-tune the focus of the organisation in order to ensure it meets the expectations and information needs of its stakeholders (those who make contact who fit the organisation's focus of being in old age and of sound mind).

D) Collaboration with other Organizations & Interested Professionals

De Vredige Pil works collaboratively with other groups in the zelfdoding sector both in the Netherlands and in other countries. De Vredige Pil is committed to actively seeking cooperation with Pegasos Swiss Association (CH), Exit International (AU), Final Exit Network (US), Ultime Liberte (FR), DMD Spain (ES), Exit Italia (IT) and in the Netherlands: NVVE, De Einder and CLW.

E) Financial Policy

Every year, De Vredige Pil draws up an operating budget. De Vredige Pil does not receive any subsidies. All funds consist of donations and legacies. Structural (overhead) expenditure is kept to a minimum and covered as much as possible by the structural income. In addition to the above overhead expenditure, De Vredige Pil's expenditure consists of financing the core services aimed at information and communication (eg. website development), the on-going training of volunteers and legal assistance if/as required.

F) De Vredige Pil seeks an ANBI status. It ensures that the requirements for maintaining status are met.