For Immediate Release

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Shadow Report to the United Nations
Addresses Lack of Access to End-of-Life Options in the United States

(Minneapolis, MN; June 5, 2026) Across the United States, residents face a lack of bodily autonomy in access to medical care throughout the life course. Individuals face severe restrictions on access to health care options, including palliative care and end-of-life care options.

One form of end-of-life care is medical aid in dying (MAID), which allows terminally ill, mentally competent adults with a prognosis of six months or less to request and self-administer a lethal prescription medication to end their lives, ensuring patient autonomy and control over their end-of-life choices. MAID is currently legal in only thirteen U.S. states and Washington, D.C. and may be overturned in one of these jurisdictions.

A coalition of national non-profit organizations led by World Without Genocide submitted a Shadow Report to the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council excoriating the United States' record on the human right to bodily autonomy. Every 4.5 years, UN member countries are reviewed on their human rights policies and practices. Shadow Reports allow civil society organizations to introduce critical issues that the country under review may have omitted or presented less than accurately or fully. World Without Genocide's partners on this report include: Compassion & Choices, Genocide Watch, ImPact Coalition on Strengthening International Judicial Institutions, Gender Justice, and Transparenthood.

Ellen J. Kennedy, Ph.D.

Ellen J. Kennedy, Ph.D., report co-author and Executive Director of World Without Genocide, supports the right to bodily autonomy including access to MAID. Kennedy's husband died in 2022 from multiple myeloma, an incurable and excruciating painful form of blood cancer where cancer cells eat away at the bones, causing them to collapse. Kennedy stated, "My husband's body slowly disintegrated and we were powerless to uphold his rights to dignity and bodily autonomy. I support the integrity, dignity, and right of people to have bodily autonomy. My husband lost that right."

Read the report: www.worldwithoutgenocide.org/shadowreport

World Without Genocide promotes education and action to protect innocent people, prevent genocide, prosecute perpetrators, and remember those affected by genocide. World Without Genocide is formally associated with the UN Department of Global Communications and is in Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council since 2022. www.worldwithoutgenocide.org

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