## PRESS RELEASE: Downs Syndrome Research Foundation UK warns of adverse impact after MPs final vote opens the door to euthanasia in Britain

**For Immediate Release**

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**On Friday 20th June 2025, Westminster MPs present at the Third Reading of a controversial new law have used their last vote in favour of introducing Assisted Dying to the UK. Dr. Elizabeth Corcoran, Chair of the Down Syndrome Research Foundation UK, responded to the outcome, saying:**

*“We are profoundly saddened this day that MPs have voted in favour of Kim Leadbeater’s Terminally Ill Adults (End-of-Life) Bill at the Third Reading. Increased difficulties now lie ahead for the Down syndrome community.*

*This vote turns the principles of healthcare on its head. We can no longer trust that ‘healthcare’ in the NHS will mean vulnerable individuals are given the best chance of care – they may instead legally meet death sooner than they need to. Coercion and difficulties in being understood and supported could become fatal in the UK healthcare system of tomorrow. This is a heart-rending concern for the Down’s syndrome community, and for all those with intellectual disabilities.*

*We are shocked that the Bill in its present form has passed the Third Reading. All suggested amendments to make the Bill more securely safeguarded for people with intellectual disabilities were rejected. Proponents of the bill have been dismissive about how dangerous this is, and have deferred the responsibility to other legal provisions like the Mental Capacity Act, which we know is not designed for this scenario. Other countries like the Netherlands have seen the euthanising of individuals with intellectual disabilities, and it is devastating to see the UK paving the way for that to become reality here too.*

*As the Bill now goes to the House of Lords, we will continue to advocate for our community and we are dismayed that too few elected MPs woke up in time to this terrible reality.”*

For media interviews and further information, contact: [dsrf@dsrf-uk.org](https://www.dsrf-uk.org/dsrf%40dsrf-uk.org)

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