The doctrine of sanctity of life from the Islamic perspective

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Abstract

Muslims believe that only Allah can have the ultimate will and power over life and death. Life is merely a gift and a loan entrusted to man until death takes place. It is therefore forbidden for any person to intentionally end a life. It is also forbidden to commit a gross violation against life. Islam holds life to be the highest esteem to the extent that the right to preserve life forms one of the core principles in mosques. Protection of life, including taking care of body, health and mind from the things which would lead to harm or death. All lives are equally valuable; therefore, it does not discriminate based on the basis of nationality, race or religion. In order to ensure a just order that protects both individual and public interests at large, Islam prescribes certain legitimate situations when the dispensation of sanctity of life are qualified, for example, by permitting to end life in self-defence or in due course of law. There is thus a need to understand the wisdom behind the sanctity of life principle in Islam, not only by studying its importance, but also the overall scope in which it operates.

Author keywords

Islamic law, Sanctity of life

References (4)

- Ethics decision making with end-of-life care: Palliative sedation and withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatments