

The hidden repercussions of a  
tragic death, on those left behind

to grieve, were explored in a deeply moving report on assisted suicide, **A Time To Die (ITV1)**.

Most of the cases examined, where terminally ill British people were making plans to end their suffering at the Dignitas clinic in Switzerland, had drawn the attention of the police. It is illegal in this country to help a loved one to kill themselves, and the daughters of one woman were treated shamefully, threatened with long jail sentences.

Both sides of the argument were given a fair airing. Professor Ilora Finlay, an expert in palliative care, spoke passionately of the danger that some people would end their own lives for fear of 'being a burden'.

Not enough was said about the risk of poor medical advice. There was also, inevitably, more emphasis on the emotional arguments over the legal ones. But this was a valuable, insightful programme.

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