

A Tale of Two Gillians

Prologue

The two Gillians were Gillian Bennett from Canada and Gillian Pharaoh from England (who went by "Gill" most of the time). Both women had arrived at a point where the life which lay ahead of them was one they did not want. In the countries where they lived, at the time they decided that death was their best option, they could not legally obtain assistance with dying. They therefore took matters into their own hands – one by obtaining and using effective drugs, and one by traveling to a country that supports exit assistance.

Taking a cue from John Henry Cardinal Newman, who wrote a book entitled *Apologia Pro Vita Sua* to explain and justify the life he had lived, both Gillians wrote what could be called an *apologia pro morte sua* to explain and justify the death they were about to die.

Gillian Bennett created a website – **deadatnoon.com** – in which she outlined her thinking and also suggested some social changes that would be helpful. The Powerpoint presentation gives a few excerpts.

Gill Pharaoh, a member of My Death My Decision, wrote a document called "My Last Word" which was posted on the MDMD website –

<https://www.mydeath-mydecision.org.uk/personal-stories/gill-pharaoh/>

(the mis-spelling of "pharaoh" must be copied).

The Powerpoint contains excerpts from this too.