



Hello everyone.

My name is Thomas Evans. I'm the father of a beautiful baby named Alfie.

Unfortunately, Alfie is no longer with us; The English law did not allow us to save his life.

I would like to briefly introduce to you his story.

Alfie was born on 9 May 2016 after an unexpected but peaceful pregnancy.

The doctors said he could have had some developmental delays, but he just looked like a child a little bit lazier than normal.

In November, his conditions got worse and we were sent to Liverpool Alder Hey Hospital, a recognised paediatric centre of excellence.

After an MRI scan of the brain it was understood that Alfie suffered from a neurodegenerative disorder.

Following a severe lung infection, Alfie needed mechanical ventilation.

I will never forget the first time they told us about the concept of "best interest". In the case of our son, for his doctors, it was simply meant to die.





On the night of the 31 of December, we were told to consider letting Alfie go because he would have never been able to breathe on his own.

Shocked and confused at first, we agreed.

Though the first of many small miracles started.

Alfie was breathing on his own. He breathed despite everything and everyone.

It was clear to us that his illness was serious, but it was even clearer that Alfie wanted to fight his disease.

From that time on, we would no longer allow anyone to interrupt his life. Only God would have decided.

Kate and I forced the doctors to put him back on life support and save him.

Unfortunately, the disease continued to advance even though for some periods Alfie was able to live without mechanical ventilation.

He had chronic seizures and suffered even further damage to his brain but despite this, he managed to interact and live surrounded by our love.





The doctors at the hospital continued to consider Alfie's life futile.

They told us that a precise diagnosis was not necessary because his illness was degenerative and could have only led to death.

For this reason, they suggested to let him go.

Imagine what we could have felt, me and Kate, every time his doctors, those who are supposed to fight to save lives, when they told us that we were not understanding... that we were wrong ... that we were selfish.

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In September 2017, the hospital started a legal proceeding to be authorised for the removal of every life support equipment.

It was like living a nightmare in a nightmare... we did not understand whether we were awake or not and if all of this would have finished.

In the meanwhile, Alfie's story reached the media and the Alfie's Army page, on Facebook, reached over 800,000 followers from all over the world.





The Bambino Gesù hospital offered us a hope by declaring the willingness to take care of Alfie and assist him till his last breath. Also a German hospital did the same.

Defying all the odds, Alfie kept doing his little miracles: he was able to unite the whole world. He, the one who was unable to talk, allowed the others to talk about him and on behalf of him.

In February 2018 the court proceeding began.

I went to court on my own, without a lawyer.

The judge did not allow us to delay the start of the proceedings and I had to defend the position on my own.

I was scared, I knew everything was against us and that probably everything I'd said would have not been considered. But I'd have never given up without fighting. NEVER.

Kate and I were reluctant to discuss about the possibility of Alfie's death. I also said this in court.

What we could not accept was that Alfie could have died by people decision and not because of the will of God and also because we were sure that the possibility of a complete diagnosis was rejected by the hospital.





No doctor testified that Alfie had any suffering or would have naturally pass soon.

This is all reported in the sentence transcripts.

The British judiciary system of every rank gave the hospital the reason.

On the 11 of April, also the European Court of Human Rights refused to hear our story.

Nobody thought that saving a human life like that, although wounded, was the right choice.

At this point, all the legal possibilities looked over. The hospital had won. They could now act freely.

We were, soon after, handed a copy of the "protocol" explaining the end of life path for Alfie.

Reading these procedures were one of the hardest things in our life.

To see, black on white, the extent of the interference of the state in the life of a private citizen left us really upset.

It was all written in there. Every moment we would have spent with our son was all described in the even smallest details and could no longer be modified in any way.





At that exact moment, Kate and I, firmly re-consider again our intention of not giving up.

Since then, we were in close contact with the people at Steadfast in Italy who were helping us on obtaining a humanitarian protection to bring Alfie to Italy.

We also took in consideration the possibility of a non-violent rally outside the hospital

On 12 April, our lawyers obtained the reopening of the trial in court and the permission for Alfie to live till the 16 of April.

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We were terrified, but we wanted to save Alfie at all cost and, also with the help of some Polish supporters, we tried to take him away from the hospital using an air ambulance with the help of a specialised medical team.

I will never forget that night... people came to Alfie to make feel their love... the whole world was following the broadcast of people using social media.

Everyone was praying for our family.





I have no idea where I found the strength to continue screaming my anger and my indignation but holding Kate's hand I kept going on without stopping.

Alfie deserved his chance and we had to try everything to guarantee this.

The hospital managed to get from the court an emergency order to prevent us from leaving the English soil.

I was blackmailed of being arrested for assault and kidnapping if I dared to remove Alfie from his room. The hospital was filled with police officers 24/7.

Those were difficult and painful days. We felt overwhelmed by the injustice of what the English law called justice instead.

In the meantime, Steadfast kept pressing on Italian politicians to allow us to be welcomed into your country. They also appealed to the Pope requesting to speak about Alfie during the mass in San Peter Square on the 15 of April.

Pope Francis had our baby at heart. Although he had already spoken about him, he exposed himself again and decided to receive me in a private audience on the 18 of April.





In that moment I understood Alfie had played another little miracle.

I was received by the Pope. He told me that I was bravery fighting for the life of my son and he promised me that he would have done everything in his power to bring Alfie to Bambino Gesu' hospital.

On the 22 of April, the Supreme Court confirmed that Alfie had to die in his "best interest" and that the hospital had to act without waiting the decision of the European Court, which confirmed later on of not hearing our case.

The Pope showed us his love once again. He asked to respect our suffering and our willingness to pursue new treatments.

The day after the hospital began to implement the end of life protocol.

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The director of the Bambino Gesu' arrived in Liverpool in an extreme attempt to save Alfie's life but she was denied interacting with the Hospital board.

While I was again recording another video of this unfairness, the world could see our son alive. In fact, Alfie opened his eyes and gave the demonstration of his willing to fight.







I will never be able to explain in words the pain, the distress and the fear I felt... but I can reassure you that the flame of faith and hope inside me and Kate never ended.

In those frenetic moments, in Italy there were people continuing to work in silence for Alfie to the point that he became officially an Italian citizen. Kate and I would heartily thank Steadfast, Giorgia Meloni and everyone who fought this battle with us. The Italian people and the Italian government have shown us an incredible closeness, which we could have never imagined.

Though, this didn't refrain the hospital with the removal of all life supports.

After the removal of all supports Alfie performed yet another miracle: he was able to breath on his own proving the doctors wrong.

They had declared in court, in fact, that he would have survived only a few hours, one day at most.

The judge refused to recognize the new citizenship and on the 25 of April they issued the definitive "death sentence" for Alfie.

The last days of his life had been an agony. We spent time with him 24/7 sleeping on the floor. The police searched us to prevent entering

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the hospital anything that could help Alfie to survive. There had to be the certainty that he would have passed.

Even if not prescribed into the end of life protocol, Nutrition and hydration were discontinued. The judge ordered these to be restored upon our request.

Mechanical ventilation was also interrupted. Though Alfie, by breathing on his own, proved the doctors wrong once again.

During these agitated moments, we were preparing all the Italian passports, with the help of Steadfast, and were planning to appeal before the European Court of Justice.

Sadly, on the night of the 28 of April, Alfie put his wings and flew to heaven.

NEVER, EVER, in my life I will allow that Alfie died in vain.

His short life left a mark in a million of people... in a million of hearts.

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Unfortunately, Alfie never had a real chance to be saved.

He was crushed into the English medical and legal system that showed its true face and all its ferocity.





With the excuse to act on his "best interest" Alfie was denied all his fundamental human rights: the right of life, the right of care, the right of dignity and the right of love of his parents.

In the United Kingdom euthanasia is illegal. There are no exceptions: it is illegal.

So, Alfie was euthanised using a legal trick. The "best interest" prevailed and justified everything.

But who is so well-educated and so flawless to decide, without reconsideration or remorse, that the "best interest" of a person is to die?

And when it comes to a child or an elderly person, someone incapable of understanding, who can really think that causing death is his/her best interest?

A sick human being needs care, attention and love even more than drugs and treatments.

This, and only this, is what a patient expects when entering an hospital.

Nowadays we have reached a point in which, a parent with a sick child or perhaps presumably sick, must think whether it is better to take





him to the hospital or to book a flight overseas to guarantee his or her right of life is safeguarded.

But where will we go now?

Europe itself has allowed the introduction of legal euthanasia in some of its Member States.

The European Court of Human Rights has proved to be completely ineffective.

It even refuses to hear cases that are submitted to them.

Free of movement in Europe to seek the best available care it's still a challenging utopia.

Also, we British will soon leave the European Union, and will be even "more forced" to suffer this absurd system that wants us to kill our children instead of trying our best to save them.

But, I say this again, Alfie did not die in vain.

Alfie has shown us the way to go and we will keep fighting.

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Soon, we would like to open a foundation to honour his name. This will also be possible thanks to the precious collaboration we have with Steadfast with the aim to continue fighting against euthanasia.



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It is also in our plans to present a bill to the attention of the British Parliament to try to change the status-quo.

We will no longer allow what has happened to us to happen to others.

We will help families who will fight for the lives of their loved ones.

I am here today to ask you to not stop fighting for the value of life, in memory of Alfie and in the name of all those who, every day, before and after him, will face those who believe that death is the only "best" interest".

Alfie has shown everyone that this is not the case.

I hope I have made you feel at least a part of the joy and pride I felt, and I still feel on being Alfie's father.

Alfie brought only joy into our lives and gave us a little miracle even after his death, the most precious.

In fact, on the 6 of August, Kate and I became the parents of Thomas James, Alfie's brother.

We will always have 2 children, forever.

We love you Alfie. We do.

*Rome, 22 september 2018 – Atreju*

*Speech of Thomas Evans*

