

## On Our Own Terms Moyers on Dying



A major PBS series from Bill Moyers  
premieres September 10–13, 2000

Based on two years of research and production, this four-part series takes Bill Moyers to the front lines of the movement to improve end-of-life care. Moyers documents remarkable personal stories of the dying as they struggle to live their final days and to come to terms with their life and death.

Television provides a unique opportunity to bring a national focus to an issue that affects us all. Across the country, people are becoming aware of the quality of end-of-life care in their communities and are working to improve it.

People are thinking about death in a new way, not as a failure of medicine, but as a natural part of life. **ON OUR OWN TERMS** introduces viewers to leaders in palliative care who use a variety of techniques to deal with pain and other symptoms as well as the psychological and spiritual issues that are critical to a dying person and his or her family.

The series will also explore the swirling controversies in law, public policy, and medicine that are arising in response to efforts to change the experience of dying.

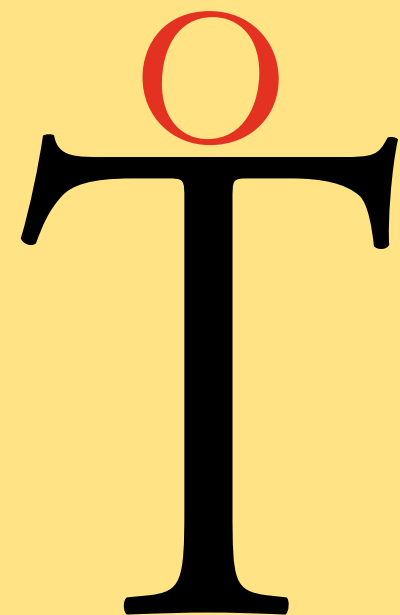
Produced by Public Affairs Television, Inc.  
Presented by Thirteen/WNET New York



## LOCAL INFORMATION

Funding for this landmark PBS series and the companion outreach effort is provided by:

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
The Fetzer Institute  
The Nathan Cummings Foundation  
The Kohlberg Foundation, Inc.  
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
The Laurance S. Rockefeller Fund  
Mutual of America Life Insurance Company



On Our Own Terms  
Moyers on Dying

**ISN'T IT TIME  
WE TALK ABOUT IT?**

**In Our Communities  
With Our Families and  
Loved Ones**

A Four-Part PBS Series  
with Bill Moyers  
Premieres September 10–13, 2000

## BEGINNING A NATIONAL CONVERSATION

Each year, half the US population is touched by the death of a relative or close friend. Isn't it time we talk about it? Communities and individuals are working to improve the care of the dying and to address their fears and concerns including:

- Fear of dying in pain
- Concern about being a burden on family and loved ones
- Acute financial stress
- Fear of dying alone
- Loss of control and dignity

People are asking themselves if there is a better way to die: a way that allows people to approach the difficult circumstances and complex choices on their own terms.

If we are going to improve the way we die, we have to begin talking about it and then take action. That is the goal for the national outreach campaign for **ON OUR OWN TERMS**.

Together, we can promote discussion – at the dinner table, in school, in houses of worship, in libraries and town halls, at hospitals and doctors' offices, and at work – on the many ethical, financial, spiritual, and medical issues surrounding end-of-life care.

Around the country, **ON OUR OWN TERMS** steering committees are forming. These committees, representing broad-based coalitions, are involved in a variety of activities, designed to unite their communities in support of improving end-of-life care, using the PBS series as a catalyst.

## OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

Please take the time to become involved in the **ON OUR OWN TERMS** outreach campaign. Watch the series – talk to your family, loved ones and friends. Take part in ongoing activities – local communities throughout the nation are taking action by organizing town hall meetings, discussion groups, and speaker forums, publishing local resource directories, supporting professional and consumer education, and staffing volunteer hotlines during the series broadcast.

### Web Site

The **ON OUR OWN TERMS** Web Site at [www.pbs.org/onourownterms](http://www.pbs.org/onourownterms) includes a bulletin board, downloadable materials, a list of national organizations participating in the program, and other campaign information. Check back in late August for a wide range of new features.

### Discussion Guide

The **ON OUR OWN TERMS** Discussion Guide offers thought-provoking essays about the issues raised in each program, suggests discussion topics, and includes a list of books and other resource materials. The guide is available free of charge while supplies last by writing to:

**ON OUR OWN TERMS** Discussion Guide  
Thirteen/WNET New York,  
P.O. Box 245, Little Falls, NJ 07424-0245

It is also available in downloadable format at:  
[www.pbs.org/onourownterms/out/community.html](http://www.pbs.org/onourownterms/out/community.html)

### Videos of the Series

Available after September 13, 2000. Special pricing available to project partners (use code DJE):

Films for the Humanities and Sciences  
P.O. Box 2053, Princeton, NJ 08543

Contact: Diane Bilello  
Tel: 609.419.8039 or 800.257.5126  
Fax: 609.275.3767

## THE TELEVISION SERIES

### ON OUR OWN TERMS: Moyers on Dying

A Four-Part PBS Series Airs September 10–13, 2000, 9 - 10:30 pm ET  
(Check your local listings)

### PROGRAM I: Living with Dying

Focuses on people – patients and caregivers – who are searching for ways to recognize and talk about dying as more than a medical event. It is a part of life that each individual, in every American community, approaches with different attitudes, beliefs and wishes.

### PROGRAM II: A Different Kind of Care

Examines the evolution of a new kind of care commonly referred to as “palliative care.” Leaders in this movement emphasize a full spectrum of pain management, symptom relief and support including physical, psychological and spiritual care.

### PROGRAM III: A Death of One's Own

To many, dying well means a measure of control over how we die. We fear dying in pain; we fear that too much will be done to keep us alive, or we fear that not enough will be done. This program looks at issues surrounding efforts to control how we die – including physician-assisted suicide – and the implications for family, institutions and communities.

### PROGRAM IV: A Time to Change

Follows crusading individuals who are working to change public policy to improve care of the dying. They are creating models for change that deal with issues including insurance coverage, medical training, and support and relief for families who are shouldering the burden of caregiving when a loved one is dying.