



local pages today

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# Illegal human-

# organ sales

On 9 July, BBC Scotland broadcast a programme, "Buying hope: Selling illegal organs". This highlighted the black market sale of organs and the methods used by some to get kidneys and other body parts from third parties. The reason for this market is understandable, in Scotland over 700 patients are waiting for life-saving organs and in the UK about 400 people die every year while waiting for an organ. However, the sale of organs must remain illegal and more done to stop it.

One of the most important arguments against organ sales is that the free consent of the persons involved does not exist when money changes hand. If one were able to sell organs, it would also promote the principle that anything can be consented to so long as the price is right, including the most unethical practices that go against the very nature of international human rights.

The programme has highlighted what is going on and society now needs to restart the debate on organ trafficking and transplantation and where the boundaries need to be drawn.

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