

**Dying in the Americas Conference 2018: Hilton Lake Las Vegas**  
**March 21-25, 2018**  
**CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

*(Tentative, subject to change as speakers and topics are added.)*

**Attendees:**

Approximately 300 Network members, lay people, and medical professionals from the right-to-die movement from the U.S., Canada, and Central and South America. Members of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies are also invited to attend.

*If space becomes limited, members of right to die societies and professionals in the field will be given priority.*

**Objective:**

Reframing the conversation and reality of death and dying in the Americas by exploring the past, present, and future of death and the dying experience.

**Sponsors:**

Final Exit Network ([www.finalexitnetwork.org](http://www.finalexitnetwork.org)), private donors (in memory of David Denton and Alan Mittelsdorf - read more about these benefactors on page 3 of our newsletter at <http://flash-pub.com/pub/ebooks/fe80f705ed/index.php#/2>)

**CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES**

*[perspectives from the U.S., Canada, and South America participants, both medical professionals and 'lay people' will be involved]*

Discussions will revolve around the following concepts, with the objective of outlining 'a better way to die' throughout the Americas:

1. The realities of death and the dying process in the Americas; lessons we can learn from Canada; define the realities and limitations of current U.S. laws; advances in South American countries.
2. Re-frame the discussion of death as a natural part of life - both for young and old;
3. Devise strategies to make this discussion more acceptable to the general population;
4. A frank discussion about the handicaps of the medical community and doctors' reluctance to deal with the very personal dying experience;
5. What are the difficulties in that conversation?
6. How do we create a model for suffering patients to decide when 'enough is enough'?
7. What is the medical profession's role? Will doctors ever view death as part of the continuum of care?
8. How does a non-medical model fit in the future, in light of the fact that medical professionals have not stepped forward to meet needs of the dying patient?
9. Is there a future role that 'lay people' can play to take over where the medical community and current laws are not willing or able to support their wishes?