



Talkback

Are you an organ donor? The National Kidney Foundation says local kidney failure patients need to wait between five and 10 years before an organ for transplant is available. This, said NKF, is because only one per cent of the country's 30 million population is registered as organ donors. What is stopping us? Is it cultural or religious belief, or a lack of awareness on the importance of such acts?

Unfortunately, there is still a sizeable segment of society who think that donating their organs is wrong in the eyes of religion. There are clear directives on what is permissible and what isn't, and organ donation is definitely allowed. Perhaps we need to be a bit more educated, and help educate others to explain why they need to do so.

FREDA RAHMAN

I am a registered organ donor, and so are my family members, down to my 5-year-old daughter. My rationale for becoming an organ donor is simple: If I were to be in a position where an organ transplant was necessary for me, then I would definitely wish for it to be readily available.

GEORGE STEPHEN

What we should be doing is implement an opt-out policy, pretty much like how France does. This means that everyone is automatically a donor, and to not become one, you have to write in and explicitly state why. Face it, we're not a big country and every little bit helps.

CAPTAIN ABU

Perhaps it's selfishness. I personally know of some people who are aware of the crucial need for organ donors, yet choose not to sign up. They feel that what's mine is mine, and that there should be no reason to 'desecrate' the body once we have died. I sincerely do hope that they never have to be in a situation where they or their family members urgently require an organ transplant, only to be told that none are available. There is such a thing as karma, you know.

M. KANAPATHY