

Cicely Saunders

Dame **Cicely Mary Strode Saunders**, OM, DBE (* 22. Juni 1918 in Barnet, Hertfordshire; † 14. Juli 2005 in London) war eine englische Ärztin, Sozialarbeiterin und Krankenschwester. Neben Elisabeth Kübler-Ross gilt sie als Begründerin der modernen Hospizbewegung und Palliativmedizin.

Cicely Saunders besuchte die Roedean School, St Anne's College, Oxford, St Thomas's Hospital und die *Nightingale School of Nursing* am King's College London, wo sie zur Krankenschwester ausgebildet wurde. Später wurde sie Ärztin.

1948 erbt sie £ 500, um ein Hospiz zu eröffnen. Es dauerte aber noch 20 Jahre, bis 1967 das *St. Christopher's Hospice* in Sydenham im Südosten Londons eröffnet werden konnte.

In den 1950er Jahren arbeitete sie sieben Jahre lang als Ärztin in dem Hospiz der Schwestern der Barmherzigkeit.

Ihre Überzeugung, dass es möglich ist, die letzten Tage eines Menschen angenehm zu gestalten, trug sie in die Welt. Die Entwicklung von Palliativmedizin und Hospizen sind ganz wesentlich ihr zu danken.

Saunders erhielt zahlreiche Auszeichnungen. 1980 wurde sie durch Königin Elisabeth II. als *Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire* ausgezeichnet und damit in den persönlichen Adelsstand erhoben. 1989 wurde sie durch Elisabeth II. in den *Order of Merit* aufgenommen, ebenfalls 1989 als einzige Frau des 20. Jahrhunderts in England zum Ehrendoktor der Medizin ernannt (übergeben durch den Erzbischof von Canterbury). 2001 erhielt sie den Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize (dotiert mit 1,5 Mio. US-Dollar). 2003 wurde Saunders mit dem Ehrenpreis des Viktor-Frankl-Fonds der Stadt Wien ausgezeichnet, 2004 mit der Ernst-von-Bergmann-Plakette der deutschen Bundesärztekammer. Am 3. Juli 2005 verlieh ihr die University of Bath die Ehrendoktorwürde.

Saunders war einmal verheiratet.

Als Christin lehnte sie Lebensverkürzung (Sterbehilfe) strikt ab. Sterben war für sie die Chance, Freunden und Familie noch einmal Danke zu sagen.

In Großbritannien gibt es nun 220 Hospize und weltweit über 8.000. Sie selbst starb 87-jährig in dem von ihr eröffneten Hospiz.

Weblinks

- Literatur von und über Cicely Saunders ^[1] im Katalog der Deutschen Nationalbibliothek
- St Christopher's Hospice ^[2]
- BBC obituary ^[3] - Todesmeldung im BBC-Dienst.

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Quellennachweise

[1] <https://portal.dnb.de/opac.htm?query=Woe%3D118828428&method=simpleSearch>

[2] <http://www.stchristophers.org.uk>

[3] <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4254255.stm>

[4] <http://d-nb.info/gnd/118828428>

[5] <http://lccn.loc.gov/n81096865>

[6] <http://id.ndl.go.jp/auth/ndlna/00455364>

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