Student handout 2.2
A tool to analyse and solve dilemmas

This is a toolbox, not a checklist. Not all questions fit every case, so you should choose which questions work best. Thinking about a few questions carefully is more helpful than ticking off the whole list.

1. Collect information.
   - Who is involved?
   - What do they want? (What are their rights, needs, goals or interests?)
   - What roles do people enact?
   - What is the problem/dilemma?
   - What does this case have to do with me?
   - What does the law say? (Must I observe any legal obligations or rules?)
   - What do we not know – what do we not understand?
   - How big would the effort be to find the missing information?
   - ...

2. Consider the consequences.
   - What are the alternative choices?
   - What effect would each of these choices have, and for whom? (Others directly involved, other people living today or in the future, here or somewhere else.)
   - ...

3. Define your priorities.
   What criteria do I consider most important to guide me in my decision, for example:
   - To what extent do I understand the consequences of my decision?
   - What moral or religious principles are important for me?
   - What is legal – what is illegal?
   - What can I expect others to accept – and vice versa? (Would I accept this decision if I were on the receiving end?)
   - What works best? (Solving the problem, financial aspects.)
   - What are the desired or undesired long-term effects or side effects?
   - Is my decision irreversible (“point of no return”), or can I correct it later?
   - ...

4. Make your decision.
   - Must I opt for one goal and violate the other?
   - Is there any chance of finding a compromise?
   - Under the given conditions, what does my intuition tell me? With what decision can I identify most?
   - ...