



UN Resolution

Mental Health and Human Rights

The resolution highlights the discrimination that people with mental health conditions suffer and signals a commitment to address it

1 July 2016– The UN Human Rights Council adopted a Resolution on Mental Health and Human Rights, in which the UN expresses concern about possible violations and abuses of human rights and fundamental freedoms, sometimes amounting to torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment. This resolution, led by Portugal and Brazil and cosponsored by 61 countries, with more countries still joining, provides additional impetus to address human rights in mental health and also signals a commitment by countries to achieve it.

The resolution highlights that “persons with mental health conditions or psychosocial disabilities, in particular those using mental health services, may be subject to, inter alia, widespread discrimination, stigma, prejudice, violence, social exclusion and segregation, unlawful or arbitrary institutionalization, over-medicalization and treatment practices that fail to respect their autonomy, will and preferences”.

The resolution also stresses that “the need for States to take active steps to fully integrate a human rights perspective into mental health and community services, particularly with a view to eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination within that context, and to promote the right of everyone to full inclusion and effective participation in society”



The EMERALD project

EMERALD stands for Emerging Mental Health Systems in Low- and Middle-Income Countries, and was launched in November 2012, funded by the European Commission for 5 years. Based on a strong partnership between mental health research experts from Europe and from six African and Asian countries (Ethiopia, India, Nepal, Nigeria, South Africa, and Uganda),—the project represents a major step forward in improving mental health systems and capacity-building for low- and middle-income countries.

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