



International School



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS ON UNITED NATIONS AFFAIRS

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This publication is distributed to Missions to the United Nations and to Mental Health Clinics throughout the world on a quarterly basis. Its purpose is to inform all about the work of the United Nations in Mental Health and related activities.

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Editor's Note: This part of our publication tells of the wonderful work of the United Nations in such areas as mental health for Chernobyl survivors, European Commission on Green Paper, help for children suffering malnutrition, HIV/AIDS, and other diseases, aid for the Pakistani quake, awareness of mental health issues in Tajikistan and Nepal, implementing Children's Fund Book, providing access to information and treatment for workers at Mwanza border, and movement on violence against women.

6 October 2005 – Among the hundreds of thousands who were exposed to radiation during the Chernobyl disaster 20 years ago, only 4,000 people will die from acute radiation and cancer, but many more suffer from the lingering effects of poverty, and lack of information on how to live in the contaminated areas and on how to regain their livelihoods, according to a new United Nations report.

Resources should be refocused on highly contaminated areas and government programs should be redesigned to “help those genuinely in need,” said the report, “Chernobyl: The True Scale of the Accident,” conducted by the Chernobyl Forum, which includes eight specialized UN agencies and the governments of Belarus, Russia and the Ukraine.

Although the disaster had terrible consequences for people living in the region, “we have not found profound negative health impacts to the rest of the population in surrounding areas, not have we found widespread contamination that would continue to pose a substantial threat to human health,” Burton Bennett, chairman of the Chernobyl Forum, said.

Instead, poverty, lifestyle diseases related to alcohol, smoking, stress and poor diets not rampant in the former Soviet Union, and mental health problems pose a far greater threat to local communities that do radiation exposure. The mental health impact was far larger than the physical health problems, attributable to the damaging impact of lack of information, negative self-assessments, belief in short life expectancy, and “lack of initiative, and dependency on assistance from the state,” it added.

Relocation of 116,000 people at the time of the accident also proved to be “highly traumatic,” the report said.



With appreciation to <http://whyfiles.org/020>

Consisting of 100 scientists, the panel recommended that the Chernobyl assistance programs that had been set up after the disaster to help mend the lives of residents should be more targeted, eliminate benefits to people in outlying areas, improve primary health care, support safe food production, and encourage small and medium sized business enterprises.

Among those people considered most in need are an estimated 4,000 out of 600,000 emergency workers, evacuees and residents who may die from acute radiation syndrome (ARS) or radiation-induced cancer and leukemia. Since the 1986 disaster, 50 emergency workers died of ARS, and 4,000 children have contracted thyroid cancer. Despite its sometimes physically debilitating effects, thyroid cancer is treatable and only nine children have died from the disease.

Stressing the need to scale back large subsidy programs for residents, better information needs to be provided by the governments of Belarus, Russia, and the Ukraine, "not only about how to live safely in regions of low-level contamination, but also about leading healthy lifestyles and creating new livelihoods," said Louisa Vinton, Chernobyl focal point at the UN Development Programme, (UNDP).

Attention should also be paid to the environmental problems brewing on the horizon, such as how to get rid of the tons of highly radioactive contaminants at and around the Chernobyl site, and the slow disintegration of the sarcophagus built to contain the damaged reactor which had degraded, and poses a risk of collapse and the release of radioactive dust, the report added.

The Chernobyl Forum is composed of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), and the World Bank.

With appreciation to UN News Centre, *Poverty, Mental Health Greatest Stumbling Blocks for Chernobyl Survivors*, UN, October 6, 2005 at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story>

EU: Mental Health: Commission Adopts Green Paper on Illness Affecting 1 in Four Adults

October 17, 2005 – The European Commission today adopted a Green Paper on Mental Health to tackle mental illnesses, which now affect over one in four adults in the European Union. The Green Paper aims to launch a public consultation on how better to tackle mental illness and promote mental well-being in the EU. Mental illness affects over 27% of European adults every year, and is responsible for the majority of the annual 58,000 deaths by suicide. The Commission is initiating a wide-ranging debate on the issue, to highlight the importance of mental well-being and to examine how best to develop a comprehensive EU strategy on mental health.

Markos Kyprianou, Commissioner said that the issue has been swept under the carpet for too long. The Commission is determined to raise awareness of this problem and to work towards improving the mental health of the EU population as a whole.



With appreciation to <http://gaggio.blogspot.com/archive/2005>

The Green Paper on Mental Health proposes three main areas for the EU level action: 1) Opening up a dialogue with Member States to agree on an action plan on mental health. 2) Launch an EU Platform on Mental Health to trigger a wide range of stakeholders to look at how to integrate mental health into different sectors and EU policies, and how to develop ethical considerations such as fundamental rights of mental illness sufferers. 3) Building up mental health information resources at EU level, including monitoring trends, collecting data, and identifying the best practice.

The proposals outlined in the Green Paper are part of the Commission's follow-up to the WHO Ministerial Conferences on Mental Health held in Helsinki in January, 2005 where the 52 Member States in the WHO European Region and the European Commission endorsed the Mental Health Declaration and Action Plan for Europe.

On October 24, the Commission will host a conference on Mental Health in Luxembourg, to officially launch the consultation process, Commissioner Kyprianou, a number of Member States, health ministers, MEPs, and WHO Regional Director for Europe, Marc Danzon, will be among those present at the conference to contribute to the debate.

Governments, NGOs, stakeholders, and individual citizens are invited to comment on the proposed areas for action outlined in the Green Paper and on the role of the EU in addressing the issue of mental health. The consultation will continue until April 30, 2006, after which time the Commission

will use the input received to draw up a proposal on the EU-wide Mental Health Strategy.

With appreciation to World Federation for Mental Health, *European: Commission Adopts Green Paper on Illness Affecting 1 in Four Adults, October, 2005* at www.wfmh.org/documents

UN Agency Launches First-Ever Ad Campaign Highlighting Children With HIV/AIDS

October 27, 2005 – The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) launched the first ever outdoor ad campaign in conjunction with a major media company to raise awareness and funds to fight the impact of HIV/AIDS on children they said today.



With appreciation to www.who.int/voicesofhope

The global outdoor advertising campaign will focus attention on the hundreds of millions of children who are orphaned or left vulnerable because

of HIV/AIDS every year, while also raising the funds to help them, and is a joint effort of the UNICEF and Clear Channel Outdoor, a subsidiary of Clear Channel Communications.

With appreciation to UN News Service, October 27, 2005, *UN Agency Launches First-Ever Ad Campaign Highlighting Children With HIV/AIDS At UNNews@UN.Org*

Islamic States Gather at UN-Backed Meeting to Aid Quarter of World's Children

New York, November 8 – With some 4.3 million children under five dying each year from preventable disease and

malnutrition, in Islamic countries, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is co-organizing a three-day meeting in Rabat, Morocco, intended to make a lasting difference for more than a quarter of the world's children. "I can think of no better focus for Islamic solidarity than the welfare of children and I congratulate the OIC, ISESCO and UNICEF on this important initiative," Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in a message to yesterday's opening session, referring to the other sponsors –the Organization of Islamic Conference and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

With appreciation to UN News Service, *Islamic States Gather at UN-Backed Meeting to Aid Quarter of World's Children at UNNEWS@UN.org*



With appreciation to www.healthpromotingschool.co.uk

Three Weeks After Pakistani Quake, 200,000 Victims Have Yet to Receive Aid – UN

New York, October 28, 2005 – Three weeks after an earthquake devastated northern Pakistan, some 200,000 people have still not received any assistance at all, the United Nations emergency relief office reported today, underscoring the dire situation in the remote region where tens of thousands could die without urgent aid.

Giving its latest update two days after Secretary-General Kofi Annan told a donors' conference the world community must prevent a second wave of deaths from the quake, which has already killed more than 50,000 people, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said up to, 30% of affected villages had yet to be reached.

Echoing Mr. Annan's warning, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) said today hundreds of thousands of people face the unnecessary risks of death, illness, and further injury as the harsh Himalayan winter approaches. People need shelter, safe drinking water, and access to health care now and throughout the winter in order to survive.

"Without more help now, the second wave of deaths in Pakistan is coming. We cannot wait to see images of people freezing to death or dying of preventable disease before we act," WHO representative for health action in crisis, Ala Alwan, said.



With appreciation to <http://news.bbc.co.uk>

“With the money received so far, WHO, its partners and the Ministry of Health have made a difference to people’s lives. The revised appeal will scale-up WHO’s support,” he added referring to the additional \$238 million the UN is now seeking on top of its original \$312 million Flash Appeal.

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) has already increased its estimate of the number of people in potential need of food aid to get through the winter to 2.3 million people. Apart from its immediate death toll, the quake injured some 74,000 people and left more than 3 million others homeless.

“These people were already poor before the earthquake hit. In a matter of just a few minutes everything they had – their homes and livelihoods disappeared,” said WFP Programme Adviser Anette Haller, who headed an assessment team in the area.

“Now they are completely desperate. We have to reach them before winter does – and that means within the next three weeks,” she warned. WFP has so far distributed 3,000 tons of food aid to half a million people.

UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Executive Director Ann Veneman will start a two-day visit to the quake zone on Sunday. She will visit hard-hit communities and meet with Pakistani officials. Within the last 10 days UNICEF has helped to vaccinate 65,000 children against measles and tetanus.

For its part, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees is continuing to provide blankets, tents, plastic sheets, jerry cans, and burial cloths. Its airlift from Turkey, organized in cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), is now in its ten day and has so far delivered more than 450 tons of urgently needed supplies.

“The window to reach earthquake survivors in the remote mountains and high valleys of quake-hit Pakistan is fast closing with the onset of cold weather,” UNHCR spokesman told a briefing in Geneva. “This is still a life-saving operation and every minute counts.”

With appreciation to UN News Centre, *Three Weeks After Pakistani Quake, 200,000 Victims Have Yet to Receive Aid, October 28, 2005* at <http://www.un.org/news>

Islamic States at Un-Backed Meeting Call For End to Female Genital Mutilation

New York, November 9 – A United nations-backed conference of ministers from nearly 50 Islamic countries and representatives of more than 20 international, Arab, and Islamic organizations has called for an end to harmful traditional practices, including child marriage, female genitalia mutilation, and gender discrimination in education.

A declaration issued at the end of the First Islamic Ministerial Conference of the Child, co-organized by the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Islamic Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (INESCO), also urged action to address the unacceptably high rates of child and maternal mortality in some Islamic countries.

With appreciation to UN News Service, *Islamic States at UN-Backed Meeting Call for End to Female Genital Mutilation, November 9, 2005* at UNNews@UN.org

Tajikistan: Mental Health Crisis Claims Disputed

November 23, 2005 – It is widely believed in Tajikistan that more and more people suffering from serious mental illnesses are walking the streets and present a danger to the rest of the society. But the authorities argue that the figures for psychiatric problems do not show a rise, and insist they are doing their best to make provision for high-risk cases.



With appreciation to <http://tajikistan.ive.org>

Many Dushanbe residents interviewed by IWPR suggested that the capital was full of mentally unstable and potentially dangerous characters.

“There are so many of them wandering around the city that it’s getting scary. What are the doctors up to? Was a typical response, in this case, from a pensioner who had recently had a confrontation with a homeless man he believed was mentally ill. But are such views anything more than prejudice?”

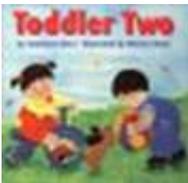
One doctor from the National Clinical Centre for Psychiatry told IWPR on condition of anonymity that schizophrenia and related conditions were definitely on the increase. “A steady trend can be seen in the spread of schizophrenia. There are currently 11,000 patients registered with psychiatric institutions who are suffering from schizophrenia,” he said.

Uktam Bobojonov, chief of the Medical Services Department at the health ministry claims that his data does not show a rise in mental illness, however he accepts the fact that the funding for the sector remains miniscule and acknowledges the role of international aid agencies, particularly Medecins Sans Frontieres – Netherlands, which filled the gap with donations of medical supplies; and the World Food Programme which has provided food for the country’s mental healthcare units.

Institute for War & Peace Reporting, Artem Fradchuk, *Tajikistan: Mental Health Crisis Claims Disputed*, November 23, 2005 at info@iwpr.net

Ethiopian Orphans, Street Children Share Their Dreams In UN Children’s Fund Book

New York, November 25, 2005 – Hundreds of street children, orphans of war, and other vulnerable youngsters all across Ethiopia talk about their devastating losses and their dreams of a future free from poverty in a new collection of stories by the United Nations Children’s Fund called “We have a Dream.”



With appreciation to www.isbn.nu

“The voices of vulnerable children are too often overlooked or ignored in Ethiopia and many other countries,” UNICEF Country Representative Bjorn Ljungqvist said. “One of the main things that has stuck out is the huge appetite these children have for education. They are desperate to go to school. They see education as the main way of achieving their dreams.”

With appreciation to UN News Centre, *Ethiopian Orphans, Street Children Share Their Dreams in UN Children’s Fund Book*, November 25, 2005 at <http://www.un.org/news>

From Sex Workers to Truckers, UN Food Agency Adds Protection to Arsenal

New York, November 29, 2005 – Sex workers, truck drivers, store personnel and port workers now all have access to information, counseling, on HIV and treatment for sexually transmitted disease where and when they need it most thanks to an innovative new project launched by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and its partners in Malawi.



With appreciation to <http://www.voanews.com>

Aware that its own transport workers might be contributing to the spread of HIV, WFP and TNT, the global mail, express, and logistics company, have set up the of its Wellness Centres at the Mwanza border crossing to give truckers and the communities they pass through access to life-saving information on how to avoid contracting HIV and passing it on to others.

With appreciation to UN News Service, *From Sex Workers to Truckers, UN Food Agency Aids Protection to Arsenal, November 29, 2005 at UNNews@UN.org*

From the Rising Nepal Mental Health – an Overview

It is estimated that over seven million people in Nepal are in need of mental health services and 50% of them are under the age of 35. This makes it necessary to treat it as a national emergency. Abject poverty gripping over 45% of Nepal's population has played havoc with people's mental health. The situation has been compounded by the lack of facilities for the treatment of mental disorders.

The government has allocated not even a percent of the total health budget to mental healthcare, as compared to 10 to 20 percent in the developed countries. There are just 25 psychiatrists in Nepal, compared to 100 in Australia. As a result, most turn to faith healers, religious shrines and quacks rather than consult a doctor or a psychiatrist. And over 90% of the people with mental illness are cared for within their communities and may never even receive treatment. Because of the lack of resources and trained healthcare workers, and the social stigma associated with them, treatment of mental disorders is still relegated to the purview of witch-hunters and magic men.

In Nepal, nearly 90% of the people with known mental disorders never seek help from a health professional. Depression, which is one of the most common mental disorders, can be reliably diagnosed in primary care. Anti-depressant medications and brief, structured forms of psychotherapy are effective for 60-80% of those affected and can be delivered in primary care. However, fewer than 10% of those affected receive such treatment. Having any sort of psychological disorder carries some amount of stigma with it. Over the past few years, as more and more people are coming forward with depression and anxiety disorders, the stigma for these disorders has decreased. Other disorders such as schizophrenia and dissociate identity disorders are still so misunderstood by others that we feel that need to hide our illnesses.

There is one problem with that. Hiding the illness can keep us from curing it. This means problems often go untreated. Some people are going to judge you, and you may see close friends take a big step backwards in your relationship. I have found that these steps back are generally temporary while my own friends try to make sense of what is going on. Sometimes, however, they turn their back completely and friendships die.

One cannot avoid abandonment by a judgmental person, but you can decide to share less with those people who may appear judgmental. It is important to consider some of the reasons a person might appear judgmental. They may simply be frightened by something they do not understand. The very nature of mental illness creates uncertainty in the mind of a loved one. How will they know what to expect? What will be the parameters of your behavior and how it might affect them? Which brings up, perhaps the most common issue of all, the issue of stigma.

Mental illness because of its great stigma feels a threat to many. Personal self-esteem levels of the individual friend or loved one may often determine how they will respond to these issues. It may also be possible that a friend or a loved one may have his or her own mental illness to cope with and is unwilling to discuss it with you. Any your strength and willingness to share may be a blow to their self-esteem, or in the opposite direction, a threat to their choice to remain closeted about their own struggle.

In any case, an option is to try and educate them. Put yourself in their shoes, what if they had approached you with similar views? Send an email

with some links to where they may learn more about mental illness and your disorder. They may surprise you with their interest to understand.



With appreciation to <http://images.google.com>

Similarly, a limited range of medicines is enough to treat a majority of mental disorders. But major parts of the country where there is inhabitation, however, do not have the three most commonly prescribed drugs used to treat schizophrenia, depression, and epilepsy at the primary health level. The solution lies in adopting a serious awareness and proactive approach to pre-empt mental health disorders.

The first solution would be within the purview of the government and responsible private bodies and the latter, at an individual level, an alertness about the need to slow down the pace of living, or modifying lifestyles, including consumption patterns both amongst the rich as well as the poor. As pointed out by the World Health Organization, the government needs to focus on solutions for mental health that are already available and affordable. It should move away from large mental health institutions and integrate mental healthcare with the primary and general healthcare system.

With appreciation to World Federation for Mental Health, P. Gopakumar, *From the Rising Nepal Mental Health-An Overview, October, 2005*, at www.wfmh.org/documents

UN Calls For Strong Action to Eliminate Violence Against Women

New York, November 25, 2005 – The United Nations today marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women with calls for states to take legal action against the global scourge, for societies to change a mindset that permits such abuse, and for women themselves to stand up and speak out against a culture of shame.

“Violence against women is the most pervasive violation of human rights, occurring every day, in every country and every region, regardless of income or level of development,” UNIFEM Executive Director Noeleen Heyzer said, citing a UN World Health Organization estimate that nearly one in four women will be raped, beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime, sometimes with fatal consequences. She called for three major actions to break “this vicious cycle” of violence: countries must pass and enforce laws to deter acts of violence against women and reduce the spread of HIV; women who have suffered abuse must speak out to break the culture of shame and stigma; and awareness must be raised on the links between violence against women and HIV/AIDS, especially by the media.

With appreciation to UN News Centre, *UN Calls for Action to Eliminate Violence Against Women, November 25, 2005* at www.un.org/news

UN Health Agency Calls For an End to Abuse of People With Mental Disorders

New York, December 7, 2005 – Alarmed that many of the 450 million people with mental disorders around the world are still stigmatized, abused and locked up under inhuman conditions, the World Health Organization is dedicating International Human Rights Day, 10 December, to ending these practices.

“There are still far too many violations of the human rights of people with mental disorders. However, too often both the health and human rights agendas overlook these problems, and as a result, they slip between the cracks,” said Dr. Lee John-wook, Director General of WHO.

“We have solutions to reverse the situation, in rich and poor countries alike,” Dr. Lee added, urging all concerned to take a “hard look” at the conditions endured by people with mental disorders.

To call attention to the issue on Human Rights Day, WHO is mounting an online photo essay entitled *Forgotten People: Mental Health and Human*

Rights, which highlights some of these human rights violations, and gives examples of how they can and must be stopped.

More than 450 million people throughout the world have mental, neurological, or behavioral problems, according to WHO. Yet 64 percent of countries do not have any mental health legislation, or that which exists is out-of-date.

- Misunderstanding and stigma surrounding mental ill health are widespread, the agency said. Despite the existence of effective treatments for mental disorders, there is a belief that they are untreatable or that people with mental disorders are difficult, not intelligent, or incapable of making decisions. This stigma can lead to abuse, rejection, and isolation and can exclude people from health care or support.

As the WHO photo essay reveals, some people are isolated and locked in cage-like rooms or restrained to their beds for extended periods of time with little or no human contact. Others are subject to the misuse of psychotropic medications. In some institutions patients lack proper clothing, clean water, adequate food, or functioning toilet facilities.

On the positive side, WHO said that more and more countries are modernizing their mental health policies, services, and laws. The health authorities of some 30 countries have recently joined a new WHO project, which provides guidelines to improve access to high quality care in the community, and cruel and abusive treatment, eliminate stigma and discrimination, promote and protect human rights, and ultimately improve the lives of people with mental disorders.

"There has been a growing commitment to human rights in some of these policy and legal reform efforts," said Dr. Michelle Funk, Coordinator, Mental Health Policy and Services Development at WHO. "However, an enormous amount of work remains before us. We must continue to do everything in our power to end human rights violations, discrimination, and stigma."

With appreciation to UN News Centre, *UN Health Agency Calls For End to Abuse of People With Mental Disorders, December 7, 2007* at <http://www.un.org/news>

Forgotten People, What Can You Do To Help?

December 7, 2005 – Mental health issues fall between the cracks in everyone's agenda. Each organization needs to explicitly include people with mental disorders as part of their programs. They can increase their impact by working together with WHO through the Mental health Policy Project

Policy Makers

Health Care workers

People with mental disorders

User groups, family groups, advocacy organizations, and other non-governmental organizations

Foundations

Professional organizations

Policy Makers:

- related to people with mental disorders Improve and increase the financial and human resources allocated to mental health
- Be familiar with international and national human rights standards and norms
- Ensure that policies in the education, labour, criminal justice and general health care system all act to promote health and protect human rights.
- Include coverage for mental health care in both public and private insurance schemes.
- Implement mental health policies and laws that promote human rights, deinstitutionalization, integration into general health care, and development of community care
- Set up monitoring mechanisms to ensure that human rights are being respected in all mental health facilities.

Health Care Workers

- Respect the dignity, protect the rights, and promote the autonomy and liberty of people with mental disorders.
- Ensure that informed consent of people with mental disorders is the basis for all treatment provided.
- Involve people with mental disorders in the development of their treatment plan.
- Involve families in the treatment and care of their relatives with mental disorders.

- Inform decision makers what resources and other support is needed in order to provide good quality mental health care.

People with Mental Disorders

- Denounce human rights violations including outdated and inhuman forms of treatment, poor service delivery, inaccessible care and abusive use of involuntary admission and treatment.
- Advocate for your participation in the development and implementation of policies and laws to improve human rights and mental health services.
- Be familiar with human rights under international human rights law and national laws.
- Join forces with other people with mental disorders in order to support each other and carry out activities to change attitudes towards people with mental disorders and combat stigma and discrimination.

User groups, family groups, advocacy organizations, and other non-governmental agencies

WHO/What can you do to help?

- Summarize and educate the public about mental health and mental disorders, and raise awareness of the rights of people with mental disorders.
- Advocate for the provision of good quality mental health services in primary health care, general hospital settings and in the community.
- Advocate for your participation in the development and implementation of policies and laws to improve human rights and services for people with mental disorders.
- Organize informal community mental health services such as counseling, self-help groups, both for individuals with mental disorders and for families, drop-in centers, community re-integration programmes case management, outreach programmes, and crisis services.
- Provide preventive and promotive services, such as school-based mental health promotion programmes.
- Collaborate with other non-governmental organizations that share similar goals within the country, region, and world.

Foundations

- Support the development and implementation of country mental health policies, plans, and laws that promote and protect human rights.
- Support the development of mental health services in primary health care, general hospitals, and in the community.
- Support the creation and activities of mental health service user, family, and advocacy organizations.
- Support research to evaluate the impact of mental health policies and laws.
- Support research to develop effective mental health interventions in primary care, general health, and community facilities.
- Provide policy and health systems training for mental health policy makers and planners.
- Provide appropriate mental health training for primary health care and community workers.
- Incorporate training on mental health and human rights issues into undergraduate and postgraduate curricula for health and mental health professionals including those in primary care.
- Conduct research into mental health policy and service planning, including evaluation of policy implementation, and models of service organization and planning.
- Conduct research on effective mental health interventions at primary care and in community facilities.
- Provide up-to-date undergraduate and postgraduate curricula based on evidence-based approaches, in keeping with policy priorities.
- Provide specialist supervision for both the delivery and planning of mental health services through primary care and community care.

Professional organizations

- Contribute to the debate on policy and legislation development.
- Set quality standards for mental health workers at all levels-hospitals, primary health care, and community settings.
- Raise awareness of constituencies on mental health and human rights issues.
- Provide accreditation for mental health professionals.
- Support the change of roles among primary health care staff from working predominantly with physical disorders to a more holistic approach to health care that incorporates physical and mental health.
- Support the change of roles among mental health staff from working in predominantly institutional settings to predominantly community-based settings.

The media

- Avoid stereotyping, sensationalism, and perpetuating myths and misconceptions when reporting on mental health issues.
- Present mental health issues with compassion, highlighting what can be achieved with adequate financial and human resources.
- Highlight the human rights of people with mental disorders.

World Health Organization (WHO and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

In cooperation with

The NGO Committee on Mental Health

Present a special panel discussion to commemorate

International Human Rights Day 2005

**“The Protection and Promotion of Human Rights
Of Persons with Mental Disabilities”**

Thursday, 8 December 2005

1:15-2:45 p.m.

United Nations Headquarters, Conference Rm. 3

Introduction

RICHARD ALDERSLADE, MD; Senior External Relations Officer for Health Policy
World Health Organization (WHO) Office at United Nations, NY

Panelists

CRAIG G. MOKHIBER; Deputy Director
New York Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

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Health at Georgetown and Johns Hopkins Universities, a WHO/PAHO Collaborating
Center on Public Health Law and Human Rights

CELIA BROWN, UN Main Representative, Mindfreedom Support Coalition
International; Co-Convenor, NGO Committee on Mental Health Working Group on
Human Rights and Mental Health;

Moderator

NANCY E. WALLACE; Chair, NGO Committee on Mental Health;
Main UN Representative World Federation for Mental Health

**NGO Committee on Mental Health, Email: mentalhealthngo@earthlink.net . For more information,
Visit the CONGO Web-Site: <http://www.ngocongo.org/ngosubs/mentalhealth.ht>**



Dr. Anthony DeLuca, International School for Mental Health Practitioners,
at meeting, "The Protection & Promotion of Human Rights of Persons with
Mental Disabilities, " UN 12/08/05