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Social Justice for People with Mental Illness

4 September 2017

Dear Friends, dear Colleagues,

This is my last communication to you in my current role. As you know, I shall demit office after the 17th World Congress of Psychiatry in Berlin from 8th to 12th October 2017.

The Congress has not only academic sessions but Presidential sessions, debates and activities related to Arts including a Piano Recital by Richard Kagan.

There are several issues that I would like to draw your attention to.

1. FIRSTLY, tomorrow is the **Third World Mind Matters Day** and we are issuing the Press statement (attached herewith). Please feel free to release it to local media, tweet or circulate it to your members as soon as you can.
2. You may have heard about the **UN Rapporteur's report** which affects psychiatry and psychiatrists directly. To this end WPA has prepared statement which is also attached herewith. I would recommend that you circulate it widely especially to your UN contacts. I have written separately and if you would like to receive a copy of my letter please do not hesitate to contact me.
3. Please also find attached herewith WPA Position Statement on the roles and responsibilities of psychiatrists in the 21st century.
4. Bill of Rights for people with intellectual disabilities is nearly complete and will be circulated separately.
5. In addition, WPA Position Statements on Coercion, Addictions and co-morbidity and mental health of psychiatrists are under preparation. Please find attached herewith a WPA Discussion Document on Acute care for your attention. Your comments will be very welcome.
6. Another issue presenting translations from Italian is under preparation. A special issue of International Journal of Culture and mental Health will publish translations from Russian into English later this year.

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7. **In the World Congress, you will have the opportunity of asking questions from all the candidates who are standing for Executive Committee posts. The session will be held on Monday 9th October. Please look out for the room on the Congress site.**
8. Please keep sending examples of **good clinical practice** so that we can learn from each other.
9. I would like to draw your attention once again to the **Bill of Rights** attached herewith again. In addition, please look at the findings of the Discrimination Survey.


Full details of the discrimination survey were published in a special issue of International Review of Psychiatry volume 28(4). The contents are available online. <http://tandfonline.com/toc/iirp20/28/4?nav=toclist>

The logo above is the symbol of the social justice campaign lasting all of next year. Please use it wherever you can.

Please check the WPA website regularly and get involved.

Looking forward to seeing you in Berlin.

Best wishes,



Dinesh Bhugra, CBE
President
World Psychiatric Association