

GAMIAN-Europe PRESENTATION

GAMIAN-Europe (Global Alliance of Mental Illness Advocacy Networks) MIAN-Europe (Global Alliance of Mental Illness Advocacy Networks) is A An international, non-profit, federation comprising users and consumers, family members, careers, health care professionals, representatives of government bodies and agencies, and other concerned parties who support or are interested in issues affecting those who suffer from a mental illness.

The purpose of GAMIAN-Europe is to encourage and promote **information, education and awareness** on current knowledge of the treatment and support available to those affected by mental illness having regard to the latest evidence based material.

GAMIAN-Europe will actively support and engage in research projects pertaining to mental illness and the dissemination of the results of such research. It will also offer assistance to member organisations where required and practical to develop support and training mechanisms for their members and to generally be involved in all areas of activity within the fields of mental health.

Essential to the mission of GAMIAN is the promotion of the **understanding of mental illness, fight to stigma and encouragement of appropriate scientific research.**



Membership in the organization is open to all advocacy and self-help associations and organizations that have an interest in Mental Illness together with health care professionals, representatives of Government agencies other individuals and consumers who are committed to the cause of GAMIAN-Europe.

The official and legal address of the association GAMIAN-Europe is:

c/o FIAB, rue Washington 60, B-1050 Bruxelles, Belgique.

Acting as a community, the Members of GAMIAN-Europe are committed to improve the knowledge of its members thereby enhancing their empowerment as well as seeking appropriate health care treatment for mental illness without the currently associated fear of social stigma.

GAMIAN-Europe advocates the recognition of appropriate treatment, which will improve the quality of life of those suffering from mental illness together with their families and other members of the community.

The specific objectives of GAMIAN-Europe are:

1. **TO MAKE THE PUBLIC MORE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT:**
 - *Mental illness is a medical disorder
 - *All mental illnesses are treatable in a vast majority of cases (if an appropriate treatment is applied, improvement can be obtained in about 80% of the cases.)
2. **TO MAKE THE PUBLIC AWARE OF THE FACT THAT TODAY**

only 20%-30% of those who suffer from mental disorders are treated in an effective and appropriate manner.

In order to achieve these objectives GAMIAN-Europe will seek to:

1. Educate consumers and health care providers thereby enhancing their recognition of the symptoms of mental illness and to aid diagnosis.
2. Make healthcare providers more knowledgeable of appropriate treatments be they pharmacological or psychological.
3. Promote specific educational training programs for general practitioners, paramedical personnel and schoolteachers and counselors.
4. Facilitate the coming together of individual and groups of individuals from varying geographical regions and from different cultural backgrounds, to engage in advocacy action to improve the lives of those affected by mental illness.
5. Facilitate and encourage the exchange of information, experiences and educational material, amongst the member associations of GAMIAN-Europe.
6. Promote the creation of more self-help groups and advocacy organizations.
7. Overcome the stigma and prejudice currently affecting mental illness.
8. Improve and extend the dialogue with Governmental agencies professional bodies and patient groups.
9. Encourage and promote research in the field of mental health to create a better understanding of the causes underlying the disorders and of their treatments.

**GAMIAN-Europe counts today 85 members. in 37 Nations.
(57 full member organizations , 13 Associated Member Organisations and
15 Individual Members) .**

More information can be found in our website
<http://www.gamian.europe.org>

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