

Declaration on Quality of Psychiatry and Mental Health Care in Europe of the European Psychiatric Association on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary

The European Psychiatric Association (EPA) speaks on behalf of its individual members and of the about 77,000 members of the 36 European National Psychiatric Associations which are its member-societies. The EPA believes that the level of civilization of a society can best be measured by the quality of care that it offers to its children, the elderly and all individuals vulnerable because of impairments due to illness or other reasons. Therefore the EPA declares that it sees as its mission:

- 1.* To promote and advocate the respect for people with mental illness and the development and implementation of laws and other regulations that aim to ensure that the human rights and civil rights of people with mental illness, their families and other carers are respected.
- 2.* To support improving the quality of care, in close collaboration with associations of people who suffer from mental illness, associations bringing together their families and/or other non-professional care providers and governmental agencies responsible for the provision of care and working towards the prevention of and recovery from mental illness.
- 3.* To fight against discrimination and for the provision of equitable and quality care for people with mental illness regardless of their gender, age, sexuality, nationality, religion or ethnic origin.
- 4.* To promote the use of evidence-based and experience supported methods of treatment for positive outcomes towards prevention of mental illness.
- 5.* To act as individuals and psychiatric societies, against all discrimination on the grounds of mental illness or impairment and do whatever is in their power to prevent and overcome the stigmatization by mental illness.
- 6.* To encourage and support individual and collaborative research on the causes and consequences of mental disorders and on ways to improve care for people with mental illness and their families and to ensure their wellbeing.
- 7.* To protect the confidentiality of information about people with mental illness handled by health care personnel and by any other person or institutions/organisations/bodies involved in the provision of mental health care and related tasks, never allowing that the concern for confidentiality is used as an excuse for deprivation of people with mental illness.
- 8.* To avoid the use of coercive measures in the provision of mental health care and to support the development and implementation of humane approaches for prevention and reduction of harm to self and others.
- 9.* To continuously strive for the highest possible standard of professional education, provision of care and professionalism of our members.
- 10* To regularly survey and report on the status of and progress towards the above goals through all EPA communicative channels, including the EPA Annual Congresses.