



PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 7 June 2019

Today, three leading organisations in the field of mental health have launched a joint election statement, calling on the European Parliament to take and support EU-level action.

GAMIAN-Europe, representing patients, EUFAMI, representing family carers and The European Psychiatric Association, representing mental health professionals have joined forces to amplify the voice of the mental health sector, calling to better address and improve mental health across the EU.

The statement underlines that action is required as a matter of urgency; mental ill health affects more than one in six people across the European Union in any given year, with costs and consequences that impact individuals, families and carers, health and social systems, society and the economy. Moreover, poor mental health is consistently associated with unemployment, less education, low income or standard of living, poor physical health, adverse life events, poor quality of life and stigma.

GAMIAN-Europe, EUFAMI and EPA maintain that patients and their families should be at the centre of all aspects of healthcare provision, having access to integrated and accessible mental health care and call on the European institutions to ensure that mental health becomes a mainstream element in all EU policies with an impact on health.

They also urge MEPs to join the MEP Alliance for Mental Health to support work towards these objectives.

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Notes for editors:

1 The MEP Alliance for Mental Health, originally the Interest Group on Mental Health, Well-being and Brain Disorders, was set up in 2009 with the aim to advocate the development of sound EU policies which contribute to prevention of mental health problems and ensure good services, care and empowerment for those affected by mental health problems. It is currently being re-established in the European Parliament. The secretariat for this Group is being provided by GAMIAN-Europe.

2 GAMIAN-Europe (Global Alliance of Mental Illness Advocacy Networks-Europe), a patient-driven pan-European organisation, represents the interests of persons affected by mental illness and advocates for their rights. Its main objectives are: advocacy, information and education, developing partnerships and capacity building: More info at www.gamian.eu

3 The European Psychiatric Association: with active individual members in as many as 88 countries and 43 National Psychiatric Association Members that represent more than 80,000 European psychiatrists, the European Psychiatric Association is the main association representing psychiatry in Europe. The EPA's activities address the interests of psychiatrists in academia, research and practice throughout all stages of career development. More info at www.europsy.net

4 EUFAMI consists national and regional organisations that support family carers and people with mental ill-health throughout Europe. ; as a federation of 30 family associations and 5 other mental health organisations (with members in 19 countries of the EU28) , EUFAMI's mission is to represent all family members of persons affected by severe mental ill health at European level so that their rights and interests are recognised and protected. More info at www.eufami.org