



EPA action in the Ukraine Crisis

EPA strongly condemns the violation of the human rights of all individuals and is specifically concerned for patients with mental ill health in Ukraine. Due to the ongoing war, they often have to remain in bomb shelters, have difficulties obtaining medical support, have reduced access to medication, experience disruption of their family support, and might not get necessary humanitarian help. Therefore, EPA asks that the human rights of patients with mental illness are guaranteed and that the Red Cross is allowed free access to all sites where medical help is needed.

To reduce the burden of the conflict on this vulnerable population quickly and efficiently, EPA has implemented the following measures this week:

- The EPA has **invited all Ukrainian psychiatrists** to the upcoming **EPA congress in Budapest** from the 4 – 7th of June 2022. EPA will waive registration fees for those Ukrainian colleagues wishing to join us at the Congress, as we hope to offer them a platform to facilitate interactions with all European colleagues who want to help.
- The EPA has **expanded the list of psychiatrists and psychologists** available to give professional support to persons in need (**such as traumatized citizens, stressed migrants and patients who lost their medical support**) by encouraging all EPA NPAs to enrol for provision of the necessary information [via this link](#).
- The EPA is offering a newly developed **“Help the Helper Course on psychological first aid“** to the lay public and **Ukrainian psychiatrists in training** in order to increase capacity to support those who need it most immediately.
- Finally, the EPA, together with the Association of Neurologists, Psychiatrists and Narcologists of Ukraine, is organising collection and transport of urgently needed medication and medical equipment to large Psychiatric Hospitals in Ukraine. The first shipment will take place next week.

The attack on Ukraine, including the Association of Neurologists, Psychiatrists and Narcologists of Ukraine, is an attack on our association. Our response will be organised on the basis of the solidarity that is one of the major strengths of the EPA. We hope that many colleagues will join in contributing actively to the initiatives listed above, to help our Ukrainian colleagues and Ukrainians with mental health problems during this dreadful period of their history.

Prof. Dr Peter FALKAI, EPA President, Geert DOM, EPA president-elect, Philip GORWOOD, past-president.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and Board

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