



Open Society Foundations - Armenia

Yerevan Declaration On Mental Health Deinstitutionalization in Former Soviet and Socialist Republics Yerevan Armenia, 24 November, 2013

People with mental health problems are at extremely high risk of human rights abuses. Thousands of people with mental health problems spend many years, or their entire lives, isolated in institutions. Too often people with mental health problems living in institutions are also victims of serious human rights violations. The CRPD stresses that persons with mental health problems should be able to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life.

Representatives from seven countries of Eastern Europe, Post Soviet and Central Asia met in Yerevan for an international conference “Enhancing implementation of mental health reforms in Armenia” on November 23-24, 2013. Representatives from Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Croatia, Czech Republic and Hungary met to share experiences and challenges that their countries have faced in the process of deinstitutionalization respectively and to learn from each other. There was a general desire to continue this communication and to express support for changes to health care that will promote deinstitutionalization of the mental health field in the region.

We, the undersigned, declare the following:

1. That mental health is a fundamental component of any fully functioning modern health care system.
2. Governments should recognize mental health as a part of the health care system and as an area of specialization.
3. That the community-based services are essential for social integration of people with mental health problems.
4. That all professionals involved in mental health services should receive basic education and training in the field.
5. That continuous effort shall be made to expand the delivery of community-based services to the population in need.
6. That financial, human, and other resource shall be dedicated to the development and expansion of community-based mental health services.
7. Governments should implement mental health programs according to requirements of international standards, namely the UN Convention "On Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" and ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Human rights international standards that apply to mental health

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) 9(1)

UN Convention "On Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 14(1)

Convention on the Rights of the Child RC 25

European Convention on Human Rights 5(1)

European Convention on Human Rights 5(4)

The Declaration is signed by: