Human Rights Day:

Ending coercion, promoting human rights in mental healthcare

Tuesday, 10 December 2019 | 10:30-12:30

European Parliament | Brussels | Room ASP5E2

Hosted by MEP Brando Benifei (S&D, Italy)

Discussing the need and ways to move towards a human rights-based approach in mental health services across Europe

MEP Brando Benifei (S&D - Host)
MEP Tilly Metz (Greens/EFA)
Claudia Marinetti (Mental Health Europe)
Markus Schefer (United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)
Sandra Vos (GGZ Breburg, the Netherlands)
Mateusz Biernat (Foundation Human, Poland)
Maths Jesperson (PO-Skåne, Sweden / European Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry)
Jolijn Santegoeds (World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry)

With support of the European Parliament Coalition for Mental Health and Wellbeing
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M·H·E
Mental Health Europe

S&D

Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament

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10:30 – 10:50   **Welcome remarks**

Claudia Marinetti, Mental Health Europe
Brando Benifei, Member of the European Parliament – event host

10:50 – 11:05   **Ending coercion in mental health: the need for a human rights-based approach**

Markus Schefer, member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

11:05 – 11:30   **Coercion in practice: users' and service providers' perspectives**

Sandra Vos, director of treatment cases at GGZ Breburg, the Netherlands
Mateusz Biernat, Foundation Human, Poland
Jolijn Santegoeds, World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry

11:30 – 11:45   **Personal ombudsman – promising practice against coercion**

Maths Jesperson, founder of PO-Skåne and founding member of European Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, Sweden

11:45 – 11:55   **Alternatives to coercion – recommendations**

Marie Fallon-Kund, Mental Health Europe

11:55 – 12:20   **Discussion**

12:20 – 12:30   **Conclusions**

Tilly Metz, Member of the European Parliament

Time for individual media engagements with the speakers

The event is kindly hosted by Brando Benifei (S&D, Italy)

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

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Brando Benifei

Member of the European Parliament (S&D), and event host

Brando Benifei is an Italian politician who has served in the European Parliament since 2014. He is a member of the Socialists and Democrats Group in the European Parliament. During his first term from 2014 until 2019, Benifei served on the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs. In 2019, he moved to the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection. In addition to his committee assignments, he is a member of the Coalition for Mental Health and Wellbeing in the European Parliament.

Claudia Marinetti

Director, Mental Health Europe

Claudia Marinetti joined MHE in September 2018. She has over 10 years of experience in management, policy, and research and previously worked for EuroHealthNet, a not-for-profit partnership of organisations, agencies and statutory bodies working on public heath, disease prevention, health promotion, and inequality reduction. Claudia is an Italian citizen and a graduate of the University of Padua (Italy) and the University of Oxford (UK). She has a Ph.D in Social and Applied Psychology.

Markus Schefer

Member, United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Markus Schefer has been a professor for constitutional and administrative law in Switzerland since 2001. He specializes in constitutional and human rights and has published extensively. A particular emphasis of his academic work lies in the area of discrimination law. He is the author of the leading treatise on disability law in Switzerland, with a focus on the requirements of the CRPD for domestic law. He authored many legal opinions on specific problems of implementing disability law, participated in drafting legislation on disability and participated in the evaluation of disability law. Since January 2019, he has been a member of the U.N. Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Sandra Vos
GGz Breburg, the Netherlands

Sandra Vos studied Medicine at the Medical Faculty of the Maastricht University. She specialised as a Psychiatrist at GGz Midden Brabant, which later became part of GGz Breburg. She worked in young adult psychiatry, clinical and out-patient care, and management. From 2013-2018, she was medical manager of the acute admission ward for adults, where she implemented High and Intensive Care, a new clinical care model which aims to reduce coercion, enhance treatment quality, introduces Recovery Based Care, and gives a voice to patients and family. This method was very successful, and the use of the isolation cell in the whole institution was reduced by almost 100 %. In 2018, she became medical director of the division Impact at GGz Breburg, concerned with severe mental health problems.

Mateusz Biernat
Foundation Human, Poland

Mateusz Biernat is a Member of the Mental Health Council at the Ministry of Health in Poland. He is also a Member of the "Cogito" Academy and President of the "Human" Foundation. He works closely with the Human Rights Commissioner and the Patient Rights Ombudsman in the field of mental health protection and the construction of self-help networks in Poland. Mateusz also cooperates with the Psychiatric Hospital in Krakow. He is an author of workshops for people with psychiatric diagnosis, a co-creator of "Empowerment college" - an international project in the field of mental health implemented at the Polish Institute of Open Dialogue. He is a therapist in the Open Dialog approach, a Recovery Assistant Trainer, Consultant at the Leonardo Foundation for the Support of Social Development in Krakow - in the project "Deinstitutionalisation as a Chance for a Good Change. Mateusz also consults students in a mental crisis at the Office for People with Disabilities of the Pedagogical University of the National Education Commission in Krakow.

Jolijn Santegoeds
World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, the Netherlands

Jolijn Santegoeds is a user/survivor of psychiatry. Despite the fact that the Netherlands is not considered as the most problematic country in the area of mental health services, Jolijn had to face a range of forced and degrading practices when she was 16 years old. The institution that hosted her forced her to isolation through others. Jolijn's main activities are aimed at stimulating alternatives to forced treatments and the prevention of torture and ill-treatment in health care. In the context of the Dutch law reform on forced psychiatric interventions, she developed an alternative model, called the "Eindhoven Model", which is based on using Family Group Conferencing for supported decision-making to avoid forced psychiatric interventions. In 2014, Jolijn Santegoeds became a Board member of ENUSP for the Northwest region. She is also a co-chair of the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP), which aims to secure the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities everywhere around the world. Since May 2017, she has been elected in the EDF Board of Directors.

Maths Jesperson
PO Skåne, Sweden
European Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry

Maths Jesperson was born in 1954. Since 1988, he works as a regional officer of RSMH (the Swedish National Organization for Social and Mental Health). He was a founding member of ENUSP (the European Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry) in 1991. He was the initiator, the leader and later a board member of PO-Skåne, a professional service with personal ombudsmen for people with severe psychosocial disabilities. In 2006, he represented PO-Skåne at a seminar in the UN headquarters in New York.

Marie Fallon-Kund
Policy Manager, Mental Health Europe

Marie Fallon-Kund holds a PhD in health sciences and health policy from the University of Lucerne (Switzerland) and a Master in Law from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven with a specialisation in Human Rights from the Académie de Louvain (Belgium). Before joining MHE, Marie conducted research in the area of mental health and human rights for four years as part of her PhD. The research was part of a European network of researchers working on different aspects of mental health. Marie's research focused on the right to legal capacity and related court proceedings.

Tilly Metz
Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA)

Tilly Metz is a Luxembourgish Member of the European Parliament since July 2018. She represents the Greens/EFA group in the committees of Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, Transport and Tourism and Agriculture and Rural Development. In the past legislature, she worked on the InvestEU programme. Health and health care are one of key topics and she has contributed to the implementation report of the directive on cross-border health care. She is a member of the Coalition for Mental Health and Wellbeing in the European Parliament.