



30 August 2018

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
WHO Director-General
WHO Headquarters in Geneva
Avenue Appia 20
1202 Geneva

Subject: Appraisal of the WHO's Quality Rights Program in mental health

Dear Dr. Ghebreyesus,

We are writing to express our great appreciation for the "Quality Rights" program, including the Quality Rights toolkit, the on-site and on-line trainings and the related monitoring activities which WHO has spent many years developing and is now rolling out in Europe along with other countries. Several of our members have been honoured to participate upstream with reviews and input for these documents.

It is widely known that many States worldwide still engage in practices that are in violation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) by maintaining and adopting legislation that allows for forced treatments, forced hospitalization, institutionalization and guardianship of persons with psychosocial disabilities.

While the human rights perspective has gained support and understanding of many players, the old biomedical model still constitutes a barrier for many and in such a situation it is crucial that WHO publicly acknowledged the value of the UN CRPD and introduced the human rights perspective into its work.

We especially appreciate the efforts made by the WHO in order to highlight the necessity of informed consent, prohibition of forced measures and substitute decision making, as well as the right of the person to live in the community.

There is no doubt that the Quality Rights program launched by WHO will raise awareness and influence all stakeholders dealing with mental health issues around the world, including the medical practitioners and Ministries of Healthcare.

It is equally important that the Quality Rights program seek to include persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in the training and monitoring processes as planned, highlighting that they are rights holders and not objects of charity.

Naturally, as the grassroots, independent representative organisation of mental health service users, ex-users and survivors of psychiatry at the European level, the members of the European Network of (Ex-)Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (ENUSP) in various countries are very interested in participating in the Quality Rights promotion, monitoring and training process.

Thank you again for WHO's commitment to this important initiative and we remain available for any questions or suggestions you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Olga Kalina
Chair