

Consultation on mental health and human rights

To be held on 23 October 2024

10:00 – 13:00 & 15:00 – 17:00 (CEST)

Room XVII at Palais des Nations

Format: In person, live webcasting on webtv.un.org

Draft Concept Note

Mandate

In its resolution [52/12](#) entitled “Mental health and human rights”, the Human Rights Council requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (paras. 21 - 25) to organize a consultation to discuss the challenges and best ways to implement at the local, national and regional levels enabling normative and policy measures for the realization of the human rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities and current or potential users of mental health services.

The Council also requested the High Commissioner to prepare a comprehensive report, accessible to persons with disabilities, on the outcome of the consultation, with recommendations for States and all other relevant stakeholders, including health professionals, and to include suggestions of policy tools for the implementation of a human rights perspective to mental health, and to present the report to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-eighth session.

To inform the thematic report, a call for input/Note Verbale was issued to all Member States in English, French and Spanish in July, with a deadline of 4 October. Numerous submissions have been received.

Objectives

- Showcase the importance of applying a human rights perspective to mental health in relevant sectors such as Government and policy; healthcare; education; employment and workplace; social welfare and housing; criminal justice and legal systems; technology and media; environment; substance use and addiction services; family and social support networks, among others). This may also include examples of how persons with lived experiences have actively participated in all processes and decisions affecting them, as well as measures that guarantee their autonomy and combat stigma and discrimination against them;
- Identify key challenges and share promising initiatives of implementing policy and other human rights-based measures at the local, national and regional levels and in the different sectors mentioned;
- With a forward-looking and mid-to long-term perspective, identify priority focus areas for OHCHR’s engagement on mental health in collaboration with relevant partners.

Outcome

OHCHR will prepare a comprehensive report to the Human Rights Council at its 58th session on the outcome of the consultation, including relevant recommendations for Member States and other relevant stakeholders, including health professionals. The report will also be informed by submissions received in response to the call for input issued in July 2024.

Panellists and participants:

Please consult the separate list of speakers and respective bios.

The event is open to Member States and other relevant stakeholders including United Nations bodies, Intergovernmental Organizations, National Human Rights Institutions and organizations of persons with lived experiences.

Format:

This in-person consultation will take place on 23 October in room XVII at PdN over two sessions (10.00-13.00 and 15.00-17.00 CEST). The meeting will be recorded and webcasted live.

The consultation will be organised as follows:

Session I will be two-folded:

- a) from 10:00 to 11:00 CEST: Focus on **key challenges** in implementing at the local, national and regional levels enabling normative and policy measures for the realization of the right to mental health in different sectors;
- b) from 11:00 to 12:00 CEST: Focus on **promising initiatives** in promoting the realization of the right to mental health at the local, national and regional levels in different sectors;

Session II: (15:00 to 17:00 CEST):

- a) **Discuss what specific action is needed – in law, policy and practice and in different sectors - to strengthen a human rights perspective to mental health and in that connection, identify priority focus areas for OHCHR’s future engagement on mental health in collaboration with relevant partners**

Simultaneous interpretation will be available in six languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) as well as in International Sign. Captioning in English will also be provided.

Accessibility

In an effort to render the Human Rights Council more accessible to persons with disabilities and to promote their full participation in the work of the Council on an equal basis with others, resolution 52/12 requested that the discussions be made fully accessible to persons with disabilities (para. 22). International Sign interpretation and remote captioning in English will be provided.

Background

Human Rights Council Resolution 52/12 reaffirms resolutions 43/13 of 1 July 2020, 32/18 of 1 July 2016 and 36/13 of 28 September 2017, Council resolutions on the rights of persons with disabilities, and OHCHR's report on mental health and human rights mandated by the forementioned resolutions, in particular report A/HRC/49/29, following the related consultation held in Geneva on 15 November 2021. In this report, the High Commissioner issued a number of recommendations formulated for States and other relevant stakeholders, including health professionals, with a view to designing and implementing legal and policy reforms, as well as other measures in line with a human rights-based approach to mental health.

Background documents

- Human Rights Council resolution [52/12](#) on Mental health and human rights (2023)
 - Human Rights Council resolution [43/13](#) on Mental health and human rights (2020)
 - Human Rights Council Resolution [36/13](#) on Mental health and human rights (2017)
 - Human Rights Council Resolution [32/18](#) on Mental health and human rights (2016)
 - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities (2018) ([A/73/161](#))
 - Report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights. The burnout economy: poverty and mental health (2024), [A/79/162](#).
 - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health on the global agenda for mental health that is human rights-based (2020) ([A/HRC/44/48](#))
 - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health on the role of the determinants of health in advancing the right to mental health (2019) ([A/HRC/41/34](#))
 - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health on mental health (2017) ([A/HRC/35/21](#))
 - Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (2020) ([A/HRC/43/49](#))
 - United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Report on mental health and human rights on the consultation on human rights and mental health held in Geneva on 15 November 2021 (A/HRC/49/29)
 - United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Report on mental health and human rights on the consultation on human rights and mental health held in Geneva on 14 and 15 May 2018 (A/HRC/39/36)
 - WHO-OHCHR Mental Health, Human Rights, and Legislation: guidance and practice (2023)
 - WHO [Guidance on community mental health services: Promoting person-centred and rights-based approaches](#) (2021)
 - WHO QualityRights e-training on mental health. <https://www.who.int/teams/mental-health-and-substance-use/policy-law-rights/gr-e-training>
 - QualityRights materials for training, guidance and transformation. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-qualityrights-guidance-and-training-tools>
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