



MEDIA RELEASE:
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World Mind Matters Day launches to achieve fairness in mental healthcare for all

World Psychiatric Association's (WPA) first annual campaign launches with a focus on FAIR DEAL for all

4th September 2015: The World Psychiatric Association (WPA) is today launching the first ever 'World Mind Matters Day', a global campaign with the main goal of achieving fairness in mental healthcare for all.

The campaign aims to achieve a FAIR DEAL in mental healthcare across the world and focuses on the following priorities:

- **Fairness and equity in funding, resources, outcomes and research**
- **Accessibility to effective services**
- **Integrating physical and mental health**
- **Reducing discrimination and stigma**

- **Dignity and equality for all**
- **Education of public and stakeholders**
- **Alliances and advocacy with patients and carers**
- **Links with organisations and across specialities**

The mission of WPA is to promote the advancement of psychiatry and mental health for people across the world and the goal of this global initiative is to raise awareness of the eight FAIR DEAL priorities through key project delivery, involving global psychiatrists, family doctors, patients, carers and policy makers.

To mark the launch of the 'World Mind Matters Day' and with the aim of achieving the eight FAIR DEAL priorities, the WPA have today published two position papers:

The first paper is a statement on social justice in mental healthcare to help key national and international organisations and mental healthcare providers to recognise discrimination and social exclusion faced by persons with mental illness. It also addresses mental illness as a matter of immediate priority and ways to improve social justice for people with mental illness. This paper is supported by 12 organisations from across the world.

Date of preparation August 2015



The second paper includes the findings from the WPA's 'Working Group on Migrant, Refugee and Asylum Seeker Mental Health Patients' that provide guidance on ensuring the inclusion of cultural psychiatry and psychotherapy as part of an educational curricula at undergraduate level. It also outlines the recommendations to support service providers, policy makers and mental health professionals to address the different needs of the patients they are responsible for.

Achieving equity, fairness and social justice for the mentally ill is the number one objective for all psychiatrists and the WPA hope that through launching an annual initiative such as this, we are moving ever closer to our goal of fairness for all.

[Insert comment from local spokesperson]

The WPA comprises 135 member societies, encompassing 117 countries and representing over 200,000 psychiatrists. The societies are clustered into 18 Zones and five Regions: the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the South Pacific. Representatives of the societies constitute the WPA General Assembly, the governing body of the organization.

World Mind Matters Day launches on 4th September 2015 and will become an annual event thereafter. For more information about the campaign visit: www.wpanet.org/WMMD

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For further information or to arrange an interview with the WPA Executive Committee, please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

About the World Psychiatric Association (WPA)

The WPA is the world's leading psychiatry organization. It is an association of national psychiatric societies, which aims to enhance the knowledge and skills necessary to work effectively in the field of mental health and in the care of the mentally ill.

The WPA has more than 65 individual scientific sections that cover almost every aspect of psychiatry. The purpose of the sections is to collect, analyse and disseminate information on research, training and services in the specific areas of psychiatry and mental health that they represent.

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The WPA works to achieve the objectives through meetings, research, education, publications and collaboration with other health/ mental health and government organizations.

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