

The declaration of Luxor human rights for the mentally ill

Adopted on 17 January 1989 by the Nile Congress at Luxor Celebrating the Fortieth Anniversary of The World Federation for Mental Health

Preamble

Whereas the 1948 founding document of the World Federation for Mental Health entitled »Mental Health and World Citizenship« regards mental health as involving »an informed, reflective, responsible alligiance to mankind as a whole«, built »on free consent and . . . respect for individual and cultural differences«.

Whereas persons publically labelled or professionally diagnosed, treated or confined as mentally ill, or suffering from emotional distress, share, in the words of the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, »the inherent dignity« and »the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family« and, in the words of the 1948 founding document of WFMH, the »common humanity« of persons everywhere.

Whereas the World Health Organization defines health as »a state of complete physical, mental, social and moral well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.«

Whereas a diagnosis of mental illness by a mental health practitioner shall be in accordance with accepted medical, scientific and ethical standards, and difficulty in adopting to moral, social, political or other values in itself should not be considered a mental illness; and, whereas persons have, nonetheless, been at times and continue to be inappropriately labelled, diagnosed, treated or confined as mentally ill.

Whereas severe mental illness not only impairs an individual's capacity for work, love and play, but impairs, as well, the life of his family and community and places a continuing burden of care upon society.

Whereas WFMH has endorsed the principle of user or consumer involvement in the planning, management and operation of mental health services.

Whereas WFMH affirms the fundamental rights and freedoms set out in the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its subsequent human rights instrument.

Now, therefore, The Participants in this 40th Anniversary Celebration of WFMH at Luxor in Egypt, *proclaim*

this

Declaration of Human Rights for the Mentally Ill

Article 1

The fundamental rights of mentally ill persons shall be the same as those of all other citizens. These include the right to dignified, humane and qualified treatment, access both to medically indicated technology and freedom from undue coercion; freedom from discrimination regarding equitable access to therapy or inequitable restraint on grounds of socio-economic, cultural, ethnic, racial, religious, gender or age status; the right to adequate information