



Invitation

Mental Health and Gender: Key Issues for the European Pact For Mental Health and Well-being

13th May 2009, West Midlands in Europe, Avenue D'Auderghem 22-26, Brussels

You are invited to attend a seminar on mental health and gender, organised by the SUPPORT project with DG-SANCO. This event is part of the implementation of the European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being.

The event will take place on 13th May 2009 at the West Midlands in Europe Centre, Avenue D'Auderghem 22-26, Brussels.

Rationale

It is very clear that gender plays an important role in mental health. Gender is important to many of the determinants of mental health, often linked to inequity in society, including gender inequality. There are clear differences between genders in mental health, and mental illness in Europe.

The meeting will discuss some of the key challenges and opportunities for gender and mental health, collectively and in relation to the mental health of men and women. It will go on to hear some key perspectives about issues relating to gender and mental health in two of the five Pact themes, mental health in youth and education, and the prevention of suicide and depression.

Policy Context

The European Parliament Report on Mental Health¹ published on 28th January 2009 stated that gender-specific aspects should be taken into account when considering the subject of mental health and goes on to note the different patterns in which the mental health problems are manifested in men and women. (A6-0034/2009)

“Whereas gender-specific aspects should be taken into account when considering the subject of mental health, and whereas more women suffer from mental disorders and more men commit suicide, “

¹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A6-2009-0034&language=EN>

A year earlier in January 2008, the Council of Europe² (CM/Rec(2008)1) recognised that the principle of equality between women and men is an integral part of human rights and that discrimination on the ground of sex constitutes an impediment to the recognition, enjoyment and exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Committee of Ministers went on to recommend that:

“health policies should take social determinants of health into account since socio-economic factors, such as income, employment, education, living and working conditions, occupational hazards and lifestyles are unevenly distributed among the population and result in inequalities which may account for many of the health disparities, including those between men and women.

Gender should be one of the priority areas of action in health through policies and strategies which address the specific health needs of men and women and that incorporate gender mainstreaming”

The draft agenda for the meeting is enclosed. Re-imburement is not foreseen, but the SUPPORT project has some capacity to assist with travel and subsistence costs for stakeholders who would otherwise not be able to take part.

For further information about this meeting please contact Chris O’Sullivan at chris@sdcmh.org.uk . The European Commission contact for this event is Mr Jürgen Schefflein, who is available on jurgen.schefflein@ec.europa.eu

To confirm your place at the event please contact Susan Lowes at susan@sdcmh.org.uk as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris O'Sullivan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chris O’Sullivan
Senior Project Manager (SUPPORT Project)
www.supportproject.eu

²<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1241743&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=9999CC&BackColorIntranet=FFBB55&BackColorLogged=FFAC75>

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Draft Agenda

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0930-1000	Registration
1000-1230	<p>Introduction</p> <p><i>Jürgen Schefflein</i>, DG SANCO (tbc)</p> <hr/> <p>Keynote Address: Determinants of Health, Gender and Mental Health</p> <p><i>Dr. Piroška Östlin</i>, Karolinska Institute and European Institute for Women's Health</p> <hr/> <p>Women and Mental Health</p> <p><i>Peggy McGuire</i>, Director, European Institute of Women's Health</p> <p>Lucy Vallis, Mental Health Europe: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AT WORK...LETS TALK ABOUT IT! - The mental health impacts of violence and harassment against women at work</p> <hr/> <p>Men and Mental Health</p> <p><i>Professor Alan White</i>, Professor of Men's Health, Leeds Metropolitan University</p> <p><i>Erick Savoye</i>, Director, European Men's Health Forum</p>
1230-1330	LUNCH
1330-1430	<p>Gender and Mental Health : Children and Education</p> <p>Introduction: Thematic Conference on the Mental Health in Youth and Education Stockholm, 29th September 2009</p> <p><i>Professor Ulrike Ravens-Sieberer</i> Head of Research -Professor for Child Public Health University Medical Centre Hamburg-Eppendorf</p> <p><i>Professor Lew Gerbilsky</i> Green Doctors, Ukraine and European Men's Health Forum</p> <p>Discussion</p>

1430-1530	<p>Gender, Suicide and Depression</p> <p>Introduction: Thematic Conference on the Prevention of Suicide and Depression Budapest, 10-11th December 2009</p> <p><i>Dr. Ella Arensman</i> National Suicide Research Foundation, Ireland</p>
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Piroska Östlin is a public health scientist with a Ph.D. in Medical Science from the University of Uppsala in Sweden. She is Associate Professor in Public Health at the Karolinska Institute and Member of Board of the European Institute of Women’s Health. During the last ten years, she has been working extensively for the World Health Organization (WHO) as an adviser on gender mainstreaming and health equity issues. Together with Gita Sen, Östlin was coordinator of the Women and Gender Equity Knowledge Network of the WHO Independent Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH). Her former positions include Secretary of the Swedish Public Health Commission, Expert in International and Global Health at the Swedish National Institute of Public Health and Member of Board of Board of the Nordic School of Public Health. Her publications include *Gender Inequalities in Health: A Swedish Perspective*, Harvard University Press, 2001 (with Danielsson M, Diderichsen, et al), and *Engendering International Health; The Challenge of Equity*, MIT Press, 2002 (with Sen G and George A). Her forthcoming volume (with Sen G) “*Gender Equity in Health: The Shifting Frontiers of Evidence and Action*” will be published by Routledge in September 2009.