



## **HUMAN RIGHTS AND MENTAL HEALTH**

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### Outline



- **1- Human rights in the EU: the impact of the Lisbon Treaty on human rights**
- **2- MHE work in the field with an example of collaboration with other NGOs**
- **3- At national level: how to work with human rights organizations and on which matters?**



## **EU Key Developments in the field of human rights**

### **HUMAN RIGHTS: KEY EU DEVELOPMENTS**



**UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

**Fundamental Rights Platform at the EU**

**Fundamental Rights Agency Project**

**Lisbon Treaty ratification: future implementation:  
Charter of Fundamental Rights legally binding!**

**New position of Commissioner on Human Rights**

## UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



- The UN Convention = positive instrument protecting human rights for people with disabilities.
- Wide definition of "disability" = clear inclusion of people with mental health problems.
- The Convention = consistent system of protection with an Optional Protocol.
- **Core articles for people with mental health problems :**
- **Article 12: legal capacity**
- **Article 14: right to security and liberty**
- **Article 15: right not to be tortured**
- **Article 19: right to community living**

## The Treaty of Lisbon



- **The Treaty of Lisbon: significant advances regarding the protection of fundamental rights.**
- opens the way for the Union to ratify the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.  
<http://www.echr.coe.int/nr/rdonlyres/d5cc24a7-dc13-4318-b457-5c9014916d7a/0/englishanglais.pdf>
- **Makes the Charter of Fundamental Rights legally binding.**  
[http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/unit/charte/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/unit/charte/index_en.html)

## EU Charter for Fundamental Rights



- **Fifty-five articles of the Charter of Fundamental Rights: political, social, and economic rights for EU citizens.**
- **Legally binding but some EU Member States did not agree with some of the articles (UK, Czech Republic, Poland)**
- **Goal: make sure that European Union regulations and directives do not contradict the European Convention on Human Rights.**

## Which are the Fundamental Rights in the Charter?



- **the right to work (Article 15),**
- **right to health care (Article 35),**
- **the right to access justice institutions (Article 47)**
- **the right to live a dignified life (Chapter 1)**

<http://eur->

[lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2000:364:0001:0022:EN:PDF](http://lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2000:364:0001:0022:EN:PDF)



## **MHE work in the field of human rights**

### **MHE key activities in the field of Human Rights**



- MHE representation and participation at the Fundamental Rights Platform of the EU (representation of the civil society)
- Work with the Council of Europe (INGO Conference, European Social Charter Reporting Activity, CAHPAH: European Coordination Forum for the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015)
- Work on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

## Work with other NGOs



**-collaboration, networking and advocacy work with other organizations**

- **Social Platform FRAND Working Group**
- **European Disability Forum**
- **European Public Health Alliance**

**Work with other NGOs, specific example**



- **Lithuania: July 2009: Lithuanian Parliament voted a law stigmatising LGBT people**
- **MHE reacted with IPPF-EN and ILGA Europe**
- **Press release, speech at the thematic conference of mental health in youth (Stockholm, Sept 2009)**



### • **Examples**

- **November 2008: Greece: denunciation of the dramatic situation of MH services**
- **December 2008: France: denunciation of the speech of Nicolas Sarkozy on involuntary hospitalisation 2010?**
- **Different types of support: producing press releases, open letters, contacting EU Institutions to denounce**

- **See MHE website: <http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/news-and-events/mhe-press-releases.html>**



- **Human rights and mental health,  
At national level**

# Human rights violations



## What can be done by you?

- contact with national human rights organisations to coordinate advocacy actions towards national authorities or to make a situation known to the public
- contact with European Networks (MHE, other European organisations like MDAC or ENUSP) to denounce the situation at European level

## How to work with human rights organisations?



- **On which issues?**
  - Issues linked to the violations of rights (social rights, right to employment, right to health or basic rights)
  - Situational issues (e.g. your organisation wants to denounce a specific situation linked to a person with MH problems)
  - Example: How to deal with Stigma and Discrimination (Amnesty International Ireland)

# An Irish good practice



- **Work of Amnesty International Ireland**

- In 2003, Amnesty International Irish section began its campaign on mental health in Ireland, Mental Illness: The Neglected Quarter. AI Ireland's mental health campaign is part of Amnesty International's global campaign against discrimination and promoting socio-economic human rights.

<http://www.amnesty.ie/amnesty/live/irish/action/article.asp?id=32921&page=32840>

- Booklet published by Amnesty International

[http://www.mentalhealthireland.ie/pressreleases/Amnesty\\_Int\\_Guide\\_Mental\\_Health\\_Rights.pdf](http://www.mentalhealthireland.ie/pressreleases/Amnesty_Int_Guide_Mental_Health_Rights.pdf)

[http://www.amnesty.ie/amnesty/upload/images/amnesty\\_ie/campaigns/Mental%20Health/Beginners%20Guide.pdf](http://www.amnesty.ie/amnesty/upload/images/amnesty_ie/campaigns/Mental%20Health/Beginners%20Guide.pdf)

## Contacting other Organisations and national authorities



- **List of contacts in your country**
- National Disability councils
- Main human rights organisation
- National Human rights institutions: see list here <http://www.nhri.net/NationalDataList.asp?MODE=1&ID=1>
- Any organisation you know about, interested in the promotion of human rights of people with MH problems
- Equality bodies when it is an issue linked to discrimination

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=616&langId=en>

# conclusion



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