

Symposium at the World Congress of Psychiatry in Berlin October 8-12, 2017

Mental Health Care in Areas ridden by political Repression and armed Conflict

Providing mental health care under emergency conditions in countries ridden by political repression, armed conflict and refugee crisis is a big challenge for professionals. Large numbers of people suffering from physical injuries as well as trauma related after-effects such as PTSD, depression and anxiety disorders often do not have access to basic medical care let alone mental health care. Professionals themselves may suffer reprisals by the state, which can make it difficult to provide a safe environment for clients. In some affected countries new methods and tools of protection and crisis intervention have been developed over the last years.

Following a series of suicide bomb attacks in Turkey since July 2015 a Psychosocial Solidarity Network (PSSN) was created by several medical and mental health professionals and other organizations. The network provides medical documentation, urgent need assessments, counselling, psychotherapy and trauma-related psychoeducation aimed at a process of healing through recognition and justice. Benefits and difficulties of the PSSN work will be discussed.

Lebanon is heavily affected by the war in Syria. The Restart Centre in Beirut and Tripoli assists a large number of Syrian Refugees - particularly women, teenage girls and children - suffering from the after effects of torture and war-trauma. The center's strategy of mental health care including trauma healing, community based psychosocial services and strategies for action among civil society-led institutions and concerned state actors under emergency conditions will be presented.

Georgia is suffering from the after-effects of totalitarian rule, several armed conflicts in the Caucasus region and an unresolved refugee crisis. One of these after-effects is a large prison population living under inhumane and degrading conditions. GCRT in Tbilisi has done an assessment of the range and the methods of ill-treatment and torture in Georgian prisons and its effects on the physical and mental health of prisoners. The outcome of this study and adequate strategies of mental health care and psychosocial support will be discussed.

Chair: Christian Pross

Speakers:

Suzanne Jabbour, Psychologist, Director, Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Lebanon

Mental Health Services and Psychosocial Support for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon - Provision of Assistance in Emergency context

Sebnem Korur Fincanci, Prof. Dept. of Forensic Medicine, Istanbul University, President of Human Rights Foundation of Turkey

Does Effective Medical Documentation help Trauma Survivors' Healing Process through Recognition and Justice?

Lela Tsiskarishvili, Psychologist, Director, Georgian Center for Social and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (GCRT)

Effects of Ill-treatment in Georgian Prisons - Morbidity and Challenges for Mental Health Care

Sahika Yüksel, Prof. Em. Dept. of Psychiatry, Istanbul University, Turkey

How to Cope with the Aftermath of Suicide Bombings: Establishing a Psychosocial Solidarity Network in Turkey