



World Mental Health Day Event

International campaign:
breaking the chains of stigma in mental health;
restoring human dignity for persons with mental illness

5 October 2016, Geneva

Purpose

The purpose of the organisation of a World Mental Health Day in Geneva is to promote, to make aware and to sensitize the UN community, Permanent Missions, NGOs and all who are involved in policy making of the importance of mental health and to realise that there is still a devastating **stigma** in that field.

Background

The Brothers of Charity (www.brothersofcharity.org) are pioneers in the field of mental health since **1815**. They started in Belgium with mental health services and now the Brothers of Charity are in **30 countries** with **more than 150 projects** in the field of mental health, education and disability care.

Dr. Guislain Award

Fracarita International organises the campaign '**200 years breaking the chains of stigma in mental health**' since 2012. In that perspective, Fracarita International collaborates with the Dr. Guislain Museum on an **International Award** (www.drguislainaward.org). People, organisations or projects all over the world that have made an exceptional contribution in dealing with, or promoting the attention for, mental health care are eligible to receive the Dr. Guislain Award. The intention of this international prize is to reward initiatives that approach people suffering from a mental illness as cultural, creative and social beings. It is aimed at **social and/or cultural initiatives** that deal with mental health care in a scientific, clear and dynamic way. Initiatives that promote the creativity of those suffering from mental illness, including the prevention of social exclusion by questioning the boundary between normal and abnormal behavior in its social context. This concerns initiatives which emphasize the dignity of sufferers in a passionate, creative and innovative way. In other words, initiatives that **focus on the abilities** rather than on the shortcomings of the mentally ill.

World Mental Health Days

Fracarita International organised different World Mental Health Days in New York, Ghent and in Mumbai. This year, Fracarita International in collaboration with the World Council of Churches, want to organise also a day in **Geneva**, as we want to be more involved in the Geneva Advocacy to the UN.

Fracarita International proposes to organise this event together with the World Council of Churches, the Permanent Mission of Belgium, the World Health Organization and with Fondation d' Harcourt. Follow-up should lead to more knowledge of each of the partners and their work.



Programme

Moderators: Dr. Manoj Kurian (World Council of Churches) and Mr. Prakash Goossens (Fracarita International)

9.30 - 10.00 AM Registration, coffee/tea

10.00 - 11.40 AM Speeches

1. Welcome and 'the role of faith-based initiatives in the field of mental health' by Prof.Dr. Isabel Apawo Phiri - Associate General Secretary of WCC (10 min).

2. H.E. Geert Muyle, Ambassador Belgium to the United Nations on the importance of mental health for Belgium (15 min).

3. Key note speaker: Dr. Shekhar Saxena, Head Department Mental Health and Substance Abuse WHO on the theme 'psycho-social wellbeing' of this World Mental Health Day with a specific attention on mental health service delivery done by Civil Society Organizations like Fracarita International (25 min)

4. Mr. Dainius Pūras, Special Rapporteur on Health (Human Rights Council) (10 min). Resolution 1st July 2016 on 'Mental Health and Human Rights' of the Human Rights Council (Geneva) (15 min)

5. Br. dr. René Stockman, General Superior Brothers of Charity and President of Fracarita International, on vision and development of mental health care of the Brothers of Charity (20 min)

6. Ms. Gaia Montauti or Ms. Sara Pedersini, Fondation d' Harcourt on 'why a foundation is interested to be partner in mental health' (10 min)

11.40 - 12.00 AM Q&A (moderator: dr. Manoj Kurian, World Council of Churches)

12.00 - 1.30 PM Network moment with reception and light lunch

Date

Wednesday 5 October 2016 from 9.30 AM till 1.30 PM.

Venue

World Council of Churches
150 Route de Ferney
CP 2100
1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland

Enrolment

Please **register online** for this event via <https://goo.gl/forms/fTbb16noyxgFLbjj2>
The **deadline** for the enrolment is **2 October 2016**.

For more information, you can visit the following websites:

- www.fracarita-international.org
- www.oikoumene.org
- http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/32/L.26



COSMA, Ayacucho, Peru