

Statement by the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry under Item 3

Response to the Report of the Special Rapporteur on Torture on the subject of torture in healthcare settings

We thank the Special Rapporteur on Torture for his attention to the issue of forced psychiatric interventions as a form of torture in healthcare settings. We emphatically welcome his call for an absolute ban on nonconsensual interventions including psychosurgery, electroshock, mind-altering drugs including neuroleptics, restraint and solitary confinement for long or short periods of time.

This will undoubtedly signal to states that major changes need to be made in both law and practices responding to people experiencing crisis and distress. As the Rapporteur also notes, commitment and forced treatment must be replaced by community services meeting people's expressed needs and respecting their autonomy, emphasizing alternatives to the medical model of mental health.

We also thank the Rapporteur for his statement yesterday in the Human Rights Council that clarifies that he does not believe that deprivation of liberty based on disability can be justified by a motivation to protect the person or others. We hope that he will ensure that the clarifications made in yesterday's statement will be reflected in an update to the written report.

When revising laws that allow civil commitment and forced psychiatric intervention, as urged by the Special Rapporteur, states should apply the CRPD standards and abolish all forced interventions including civil commitment, whether based on disability alone or in combination with other factors.