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18 May 2017

CHRUSP Annual Report of Activities 2016

CHRUSP receives UN ECOSOC Special Consultative Status!

CHRUSP submitted its application for ECOSOC Special consultative status in 2016, and it was granted on 27 April 2017. Consultative status will allow CHRUSP to designate representatives in New York and Geneva and make it easier to participate in meetings at the United Nations.

Absolute Prohibition Campaign

From January – March 2016, CHRUSP carried out a Campaign to Support the CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) Absolute Prohibition of Commitment and Forced Treatment. The aim was to demonstrate civil society support for the standards established by the CRPD Committee, which had come under attack by psychiatrists and others who either misunderstood or had vested interests in preserving the status quo. We invited everyone who supported these standards to write a blog post, and the results were published on a dedicated blog for the Campaign as well as a number of collaborating sites. CHRUSP President Tina Minkowitz presented the Campaign to the CRPD Committee at its 15th session in March 2016 and publicized it through social media and relevant email lists. All materials can be found at <http://absoluteprohibition.org>.

A number of participants expressed interest in continuing the Campaign in some form, and in December 2016 we held the first video/audio conferences and email conversations to share information and discuss strategies and collaboration. As of this writing, there are subgroups working in Spanish and French, and we are looking into setting up topic-oriented workgroups for better efficiency.

Korea/Japan/Taiwan model law on inclusion

We are collaborating with colleagues in Korea, Japan and Taiwan in an exciting project to draft a model law on inclusion that is compliant with CRPD. The first meeting took place in May 2016 in Incheon, and a second one is scheduled for later this year. A report from the meeting has been uploaded to the CHRUSP website, at http://www.chrusp.org/file/324644/memorandum_of_model_bill_for_inclusion2.docx.

Third party intervention CRPD OP case Australia

CHRUSP submitted a third-party intervention in a case before the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under the Optional Protocol, dealing with forced electroshock. The Committee can consider individual complaints in regard to

violations by countries that have ratified both the CRPD and its Optional Protocol. The aim of a third-party intervention (also called amicus brief) is to develop legal issues and arguments that can benefit the tribunal in reaching a conclusion. The CHRUSP intervention addressed issues of admissibility as well as merits, emphasizing the absolute prohibition of forced treatment and commitment. Here is a link: <http://www.chrusp.org/file/313554/CHRUSPthirdpartyDaniels.docx>.

Working Group on Arbitrary Detention US visit

CHRUSP organized the participation of users and survivors of psychiatry in meetings with the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention during its visit to the United States in October 2016. We submitted information in writing, and survivors met with members of the Working Group in Washington, DC and in Los Angeles. The WGAD issued preliminary findings, which were rather disappointing as they promoted procedural safeguards that already exist and are insufficient to stop forced treatment and commitment. CHRUSP submitted additional comments and hopes that the WGAD will reconsider its recommendations for the US and urge the US to implement the WGAD's [Basic Principles and Guidelines on Remedies and Procedures on the Right of Anyone Deprived of Their Liberty to Bring Proceedings Before a Court](#).

Participation in COSP Civil Society coordination mechanism

CHRUSP participated in the civil society coordination mechanism for the 2016 CRPD Conference of States Parties, organized by the International Disability Alliance. Among other tasks, we worked together with WNUSP, TCI-Asia and others to draft an alternative statement on the rights of persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, to counter the medical-model views put forward in an official document. It was gratifying to observe that there were strong presentations from a number of panelists upholding our rights under the CRPD. Nevertheless, the persistence of medical model views among states parties is troubling.

Submissions to UN consultations:

CHRUSP submitted [a paper](#) to the CRPD Day of General Discussion on Article 19 and participated in the event in Geneva on 19 April 2016.

CHRUSP submitted a [response](#) to the Human Rights Committee's draft General Comment on ICCPR Article 6, right to life. The response addressed women's reproductive rights as well as the Committee's approach to suicide and the death penalty.

CHRUSP submitted papers to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in consultations on [mental health and human rights](#), and on [equality and non-discrimination](#).

CHRUSP submitted [comments](#) on the draft update of CEDAW General Recommendation No. 19 on violence against women, discussing forced psychiatry as disability-based intersectional violence.

Looking ahead: Highlights of 2017 to date

CHRUSP has begun to offer an online training on the CRPD from a survivor of psychiatry perspective. Please see <http://crpdcourse.org> for details.

CHRUSP has signed on as a supporter of the [Disability Integration Act \(DIA\)](#) in the United States (see bill text [here](#)). DIA if enacted would create an enforceable right to receive long-term support services in non-coercive community settings rather than institutions. Emergent and intermittent needs will be covered, and there is an obligation to ensure the availability of affordable housing that is not tied to services, so as to provide individuals with a meaningful choice.

Donations Welcome, through [Network for Good](#) or sent directly to CHRUSP, 44 Palmer Pond Rd, Chestertown, NY 12817 USA.