

Human Rights and Mental Health in Older Adults

Why this webinar?

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Sharing complementary goals



IPA represents geriatric mental health care professionals dedicated to improving the mental health of older people everywhere through the advancement of education, research, professional development, advocacy, health promotion and service development.



WPA's vision is a world in which people live in conditions that promote mental health and have access to mental health treatment and care that meet appropriate professional and ethical standards, integrate public health principles and respect human rights.

WPA 2020-23 action plan: Developing partnerships for collaborative work and strengthening partnerships with mental health and other organisations

The threats to the older adults human rights and dignity

- UN Declaration of Human Rights, 1948
 - Art. 1: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.
 - Art. 2: Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
 - Art. 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and the security of person.

The threats to the older adults human rights and dignity

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 - Art. 1: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.
 - Art. 2: Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. **Age!**
 - Art. 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and the security of person.

The threats to the older adults human rights and dignity

- During present difficult times these principles are more than necessary to be recalled
- Pandemics, wars and natural disasters may reveal the best and the worst of us while struggling for survival:
 - Selfish individual response or
 - Empathy, compassion and solidarity
- Dignity in mental health care

What is Dignity?

- **Dignity:** being of value or having worth.
- Dignity in mental health care sustains the **ethical** and the **legal** framework to support someone losing his/her autonomy and independence as a result of mental health problems and other co-morbidities.

What is Dignity?

- The non-inclusion of the principle of dignity in the mental health care for older adults:
 - **ageist** attitudes and behaviours
 - development of **bad mental health** policies, programmes and services
 - **poor access** to health and social care

Dignity in the care of older adults during COVID-19 pandemic

- Ensure that difficult health-care decisions affecting older people are guided by a commitment to dignity and the right to health
- Strengthen social inclusion and solidarity during physical distancing: increase the sense of belonging
- Fully integrate a focus on older persons into the socio-economic and humanitarian response to COVID-19
- Expand participation by older persons, share good practices and harness knowledge and data

Mental Illness in Older Adults Kills

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***Disrespect of Older Adults Human
Rights Kills Too***



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Section of Old Age Psychiatry

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