



CITIZENS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
UNITED KINGDOM

World Health Organization, United Nations condemn coercive psychiatry

WFMH Must Denounce Involuntary Electroshock

*Reports from around the world highlight the need to address...
eliminating the use of coercive practices such as forced
admission and forced treatment [including electroshock therapy
(ECT) and psychosurgery]"*

- World Health Organization, June 2021

OPEN LETTER

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Professor Sir David Goldberg
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**Re: WHO/UN Demands for Eliminating Coercive Psychiatric Practices, including
Electroshock without informed consent**

CITIZENS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS UK supports the World Health Organization and UN Human Rights Council reports demanding that psychiatry move away from coercive practices and towards human rights. Despite these reports, 1.4 million people are electroshocked globally every year, including those who are electroshocked coercively. At least 36% of shock victims in England alone are subjected to this against their will.

The WHO condemns coercive psychiatric practices, which it says, “are pervasive and are increasingly used in services in countries around the world, despite the lack of evidence that they offer any benefits and the significant evidence that they lead to physical and psychological harm and even death.”

WHO reinforced the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), including several rights of the CPRD that prohibit coercive use of electroshock.

Various UN Human Rights Council reports support this, the latest in February-April 2022, in which experts called for changes in mental health law to align with the CRPD.

The report addresses concerns that coercion, involuntary treatment and forced placement are incompatible with human rights. States should repeal provisions on forced institutionalisation and end involuntary treatment practices.

Dr. Danius Pūras, one of your speakers, has been addressing this for many years, calling for a revolution in mental health.

What, then, is the WFMH doing to speak out unconditionally against coercive psychiatry and its lack of accountability for inherent abuses so rife in the mental health system? What is it doing in support of a ban on involuntary detainment and forced treatment?

A strong position must be publicly taken against mental consumers being forcibly electroshocked and coercively treated. CCHR is bringing these matters to the attention of the WFMH and visitors to the Congress, while also obtaining feedback on this important issue to support the elimination of coercive psychiatric practices.

Yours sincerely,

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