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To EPA National Psychiatric Associations

29 October 2015

EPA Position on Psychiatric Care of Refugees in Europe

Dear Professors and representatives of EPA NPAs,

The European Psychiatric Association (EPA) is strongly concerned by the impact of the refugee migration crisis on the mental health care in Europe.

The recent developments make the situation particularly challenging for the healthcare systems in the different EU Member States. As for mental health in particular, most services have been coping with an increasing demand related to psychiatric illnesses, limited healthcare resources, decreasing numbers of trained specialists and new legal requirements.

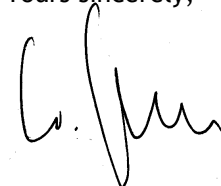
Against this background, EPA wants to bring to the EU attention its view on the importance of appropriate and timely provision of mental health care to refugees and migrants in Europe. EPA intends to contribute to the implementation of the European Agenda on Migration, and is keen to provide strategic advice and expertise in mental health related issues through its Council of National Psychiatric Associations across Europe.

To that aim, your commitment and support is crucial. We would be grateful if your association joins this initiative.

Please find enclosed the EPA position statement for your information and further use.

We look forward to your positive response!

Yours sincerely,



Professor Wolfgang Gaebel
EPA President



Professor Manuel Martín Carrasco
Chair of the Council of NPAs

EPA Administrative Office

15 avenue de la Liberté
67000 Strasbourg - FRANCE

Phone +33 388 239 930
Fax +33 388 352 973

EPA Brussels Office

University Foundation
11 rue d'Egmont
1000 Brussels - BELGIUM