



SRMUN Charlotte
March 26-28, 2021
*Unity: Coming Together to
Address a Changing World*

Draft Resolution 1-3

Committee: World Health Organization Executive Board
Subject: Addressing Mental Health Needs of Populations in Crisis

The World Health Organization Executive Board,

Alarmed with the WHO's findings that 9% of people who have faced conflict in the last ten years will likely experience from a moderate to severe mental illness,

Keeping in mind that health, including physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing, is a global concern and that the health of the global community at large includes populations in crisis,

Recognizing that populations in crisis may experience mental illnesses including anxiety, post traumatic stress disorder, depression, and others,

Acknowledging that mental health conditions are exacerbated by the potential lack of resources during a crisis,

Understanding that every population and Member State is affected differently by conflict and may require solutions to mental health challenges tailored specifically to them,

Fully believing that an increase in proper mental health education is imperative to spreading awareness and gaining better understanding on the matter,

Reminding member states of the need to address the problem while also prioritizing the sovereignty and particular circumstances of every country,

Realizing that because COVID-19 pandemic, completion of 2030 SDGs may no longer be currently possible for many member states within the previous timeline,

Noting carefully that this involves collective action seeing that we live in a highly connected world,

1. *Suggests* that member states implement A/RES/70/1 (sustainable development goals or SDGs) and universal health coverage, which includes mental health, when possible, by
 - a. Including coverage that can be public and private with an option for citizens to choose between the two, and,
 - b. Working with regional institutions like the banks and the Organization of American States (OAS);
2. *Calls* upon each member state to evaluate its particular mental health needs in order to determine the most effective plan of action by:
 - a. Creating a global level system based on the mental health systems of member states, and,
 - b. Encouraging incentives to foster growth in mental health professionals and advocates;
3. *Recommends* student loan forgiveness to incentivize training and the establishment of mental health clinics and professionals, by:
 - a. Proposing the creation of a multinational organization, modeled after Open Excellence, with the purpose of funding aforementioned programs for which the loans would be necessary, and,

- b. Providing short-term, bilateral humanitarian assistance via the multinational organization;
- 4. *Encourages* the cooperation between the member states and NGOs to address mental health needs of populations in crisis, by,
 - a. Supporting Neptune Foundation’s work on identifying homeless people with mental health needs, then arranging shelter, essential commodities, and treatment,
 - b. Working alongside Child Family Health International (CFHI) to provide global health education programs that include internships, electives, and rotations in international communities that integrate participants into established health systems and use local medical and public health practitioners as global health experts, and,
 - c. Accessing the Mental Health Innovation Network, a global community of mental health innovators and maintaining a database of NGOs towards mental health, to provide further options for NGO collaborations;
- 5. *Emphasizes* that refugee and immigration centers should include mental health professionals and counseling through:
 - a. Extending mental health services to those who are not citizens,
 - b. Encouraging the onboarding of volunteers and professionals who are multilingual, and,
 - c. Working with the Global Mental Health (GMH) task force;
- 6. *Supports* the spread of awareness and correct medical information throughout regions by:
 - a. Using methods of properly diagnosing, treating, and managing mental illnesses caused by crisis, and,
 - b. Implementing preventative measures in school-age children such as mindfulness techniques with the goal of preventing the development of mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression;
- 7. *Encourages* member states to work with local mental health professionals to use and improve upon existing programs to evaluate how member states can address mental health within their regions by,
 - a. Training local volunteers in mental health assessment capabilities,
 - b. Sending trained volunteers to work alongside interpreters with cultural knowledge,
 - c. Using resources such as Mental Health Gap Action Programme (MnGAP) and the GMH policy to implement on-the-ground assistance, scaling up local to global treatment action, spearheading resolutions including mental health support of sustainable development goals, and mental health and substance abuse disorders, and,
 - d. Implementing educational training, research and innovation, consultation and convening, partnering with Focus Area for Compassion & Ethics (FACE) a task force for global health;
- 8. *Urges* member states to take action to destigmatize mental health conditions in every form by:
 - a. Encouraging strategies to destigmatize mental health in young children such as introducing a course about mental health in schools,
 - b. Working alongside the MINDS Foundation to address stigma around mental health through education, awareness, and provision of necessary care; community led initiatives and collaborations with teachers, local leader, and clinicians, and,
 - c. Bolstering grassroots services to further one-on-one contact and encourage community-based outreach; and,
- 9. *Further encourages* member states to support populations in crisis with other resources along with mental health assistance by,
 - a. Working with other international organizations, like the World Food Programme, to provide food assistance to states in emergencies either through direct assistance or through strengthening countries capacities,
 - b. Assisting nations in crisis through economic, military, or emergency humanitarian assistance by supporting the International Medical Corps and offering community-based

training, equipping people with the skills they need to heal, map their own path to self-sufficiency, and become successful first responders,

- c. Using Official Development Assistance (ODA) to assist in country development, and,
- d. Utilizing the WHO's Project Atlas to further achieve future goals of democratic cooperation and ensure alignment with the WHO's Agenda for Sustainable Development.