INTRODUCTION

The BluePrint Group is a global joint advocacy, communications and learning coalition consisting of over 800 representatives of governments, international organisations, NGOs, academia and the private sector. The group was formed to encourage greater global collaboration on mental health advocacy, communications and learning, and to enable anyone with a professional interest in mental health and/or in health policy to have a means to link up with others who share this interest.

COVID-19 and mental health updates and resources

World Health Organisation and United Nations Resources

As a mental health network, we are committed to actively sharing information on how to address the mental health consequences to this outbreak, including potential for individual and wider spread anxiety. As BluePrint Group members, we would like to share with you the resources available from the World Health Organisation who are the UN agency with the global leadership role in responding to the outbreak. (For full list of WHO resources see here)

- Mental well-being: resources for the public
- “Mental health and psychosocial considerations during the COVID-19 outbreak”
- Healthy at Home Guidance
- IASC MHPSS Briefing note on COVID-19
- Doing what matters in times of stress: an illustrated guide
- Supporting Children’s Wellbeing During the COVID-19 Pandemic, UNICEF
- How teenagers can protect their mental health during coronavirus (COVID-19), UNICEF
Resources from BluePrint Group members

For full list of BPG member resources see here.

- The Impact of COVID-19 on Global Mental Health: A briefing, United for Global Mental Health.
- COVID-19: understanding inequalities in mental health during the pandemic, Centre for Mental Health.
- Analysis of COVID-19 Related Funding for Mental Health, United for Global Mental Health.
- Policy Responses to COVID-19 tracker, International Monetary fund.
- Alzheimer’s Disease International Resources
  - Resources webpage
  - Professor Huali Wang of Alzheimer’s Disease Chinese (ADC)’s presentation on the lessons learned from China in supporting people with dementia during COVID-19. Also available with Spanish and French subtitles.
  - ADI’s position paper on dementia and difficult decisions about hospital admission and triage: English; Spanish; French
  - ADI’s thought piece on age, dementia and the allocation of health resources during and beyond COVID-19: English; Spanish
  - Webinar recordings

Webinar Series

Every Tuesday (09:00 EST; 14:00 BST; 15:00 SAST; 18:30 IST,) BPG members will join other global experts, policy makers and those at the frontline in the response to discuss the latest evidence and impact of COVID-19 on mental health and how to address it. Sign up to the seminar series. Questions please contact COVID19seminars@unitedgmh.org.

All recording of previous webinars can be found here:
1. Workplace mental health. See the recording here, and notes here.
2. Far from home: MHPSS for refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. See the recording here, and notes here.
3. Stories from the Field - Ensuring Continuity of Mental Health Care during COVID-19. See the recording here, and notes here.
5. Mental health & children, youth and carers. See the recording here, notes here.
7. Mental Health & COVID-19 People in vulnerable situations: protecting people in institutions, older people, and other groups - see the recording here, and notes here.
8. Mental Health & COVID-19 Beyond Face to Face: Digital and Other Ways to Provide Mental Health Service Delivery and Support. Webinar recording here, notes here.

Upcoming topics include:

JULY 7th - Mental Health and Poverty Alleviation
Speakers include:
Mawuena Agbonyitor, PIH Sierra Leone; Liron David, ENOSH Israel National Mental Health Association; Kaaren Mathias, Project Burans India; Dr Fizza Yasmeen, BasicNeeds Pakistan and Daniel Vigo, Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard University

JULY 14th - How to support COVID-19 Patients and Caregivers
Speakers include:
Jasmine Kalha, Centre for Mental Health Law and Policy India; Aakanksha Kapoor, Minds at Play, Neevam Foundation India; Taryn Du Toit, Cape Mental Health South Africa; and Adrea Alvarado, Clinical Psychologist, Ecuador and Spain.

To sign up to any of the webinars above please follow this link, if you have any questions please email covid19seminars@unitedgmh.org.
BluePrint Group updates

BluePrint Group Calls

The June BluePrint Group call notes are available here and recording of the call is available here. The July call will be held as a webinar, which can be accessed through your computer via this link. Please note if you would like to see the full list of participants on the call, you must join the call via the go to webinar app on your computer or phone. If you would like to contribute an item to the call agenda please email us.

Details of the next few calls are available below:

| July call | Wednesday 8th July, 2pm BST | Register here |
| August call | Wednesday 5th August, 2pm BST | Register here |

Coffee conversations

Looking for a new way to network with fellow BPG members? Sign up to our coffee conversations and be paired at random with another BluePrint Group member, so that you can have a video call and learn more about your colleagues work.

We have had great feedback from BPG members who have taken part in this initiative, with everyone who has sent in feedback saying that they would recommend Coffee Conversations, as they learnt a lot from their fellow BPG member, and enjoyed connecting with them.

“It was a terrific way to learn more and connect with like-minded people who are passionate about mental health”

BluePrint Group Working Groups

You can join any working group by registering here.

Youth Group:
Co chairs - Ann Willhoite, UNICEF; Craig Hodges, Orygen; Victor Ugo, UnitedGMH
The Child and Youth Working Group has identified their key priorities for the year to be:

1. Creation of mental health child and youth engagement group, and development of guidelines
2. Advocacy around key events on child and adolescent mhpss, or needing elevation of child and adolescent mhpss priorities

Please join us or feel free to keep updated on the group’s work through this link.

Financing Mental Health Working Group:
Co-chairs - Matthew Mutiso, Nanga, Kenya and James Sale, UnitedGMH.
The Financing Mental Health Working Group is finding its feet with regular calls and collaborative activities emerging. The last call, June 25th, saw the Working Group discuss domestic resources for mental health, and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria as an opportunity for mental health and potential areas of collaboration for the coming year.

To recap on the groups ways of working:
• The Financing Working Group will be impact focused, providing a mechanism for information sharing and collaborative activities
• Working towards increasing financing for mental health systems and not fundraising for our organisations

Full notes from the call can be found here, and all the group’s documents are saved in this folder. If you would like to join then please contact James at james@unitedgmh.org
Humanitarian group:
Co-chairs: Ann Willhoite, UNICEF; Carmen Valle-Trebadelo, MHPSS Collaborative

The Humanitarian MHPSS Advocacy needs will now be represented by two focal points who will maintain linkages with the Inter Agency Standing Committee MHPSS Reference Group and interested BPG members. This is to avoid creating a group that is duplicative or parallel to the existing efforts of the Reference Group. The aim will still be to support and elevate the advocacy needs for MHPSS in humanitarian settings, and the process will function in the following way:

Two way communication on Humanitarian Advocacy for MHPSS:

To the BPG:
1. Represent Humanitarian needs on broader BPG advocacy agenda/events
2. Ad hoc convening of interested BPG members around key events
3. Communication to interested BPG members around MHPSS RG advocacy priorities and needs (such as service user groups and other CBOs)

To the IASC MHPSS RG:
1. Connect IASC MHPSS RG Advocacy needs with BPG Resources and members as needed
2. Alignment of advocacy strategies around key events and broader needs as brought forth by RG member agencies
3. Communication of BPG advocacy events/efforts to RG

A quarterly mail out with updates and opportunities for linkages on advocacy needs will be sent to those who are interested (sign up here), and updates from group members on ongoing local and global advocacy efforts will be housed in this folder.

Global Moments

United Nations High Level Political Forum is being held virtually from the 6th - 16th of July. An overview of the programme is available here. A more detailed version of the programme is available here. It will be able to view via UN Web TV.

For more information see the BluePrint Group event list.

Member Resources & Reports

Health and Human Rights Journal special section on mental health and human rights
Their June issue included the following articles:

- EDITORIAL: Reimagining the Mental Health Paradigm for our Collective Well-Being. Audrey Chapman, Carmel Williams, Julie Hannah and Danius Puras.
- Human Rights and the Confinement of People Living with Dementia in Care Homes. Linda Steele, Ray Carr, Kate Swaffer, Lyn Phillipson, and Richard Fleming
- Addressing the Problem of Severe Underinvestment in Mental Health and Well-Being from a Human Rights Perspective. Faraz Mahomed
- Human Rights, Stigma, and Substance Use. Jenifer Wogen and Maria Teresa Restrepo
- Mental Health as a Basic Human Right and the Interference of Commercialized Science. Lisa Cosgrove and Allen F. Shaughnessy
• PERSPECTIVE WHO's QualityRights Initiative: Transforming Services and Promoting Rights in Mental Health. Michelle Funk and Natalie Drew Bold

• Arctic Suicide, Social Medicine, and the Purview of Care in Global Mental Health. Lucas Trout and Lisa Wexler

• Exploring the Potential of a Rights-Based Approach to Work and Social Inclusion for People with Lived Experience of Mental Illness in Ghana. Ursula M. Read, Lionel Sakyi, and Wendy Abbey

• Crisis Response as a Human Rights Flashpoint: Critical Elements of Community Support for Individuals Experiencing Significant Emotional Distress. Peter Stastny, Anne M. Lovell, Julie Hannah, Daniel Goulart, Alberto Vasquez, Seana O’Callaghan, and Dainius Pūras

• A Human Rights-Based Approach to Psychiatry: Is it Possible? Emma Broberg, Agneta Persson, Anna Jacobson, and Anna-Karin Engqvist

• Reconceptualizing Psychosis: The Hearing Voices Movement and Social Approaches to Health. Rory Neirin Higgs

• PERSPECTIVE Traditional Healing Practices Involving Psychoactive Plants and the Global Mental Health Agenda: Opportunities, Pitfalls, and Challenges in the “Right to Science” Framework. José Carlos Bouso and Constanza Sánchez Avilés


• A Key, Not a Straitjacket: The Case for Interim Mental Health Legislation Pending Complete Prohibition of Coercion in Accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Laura Davidson

• The Great March of Return: Lessons from Gaza on Mass Resistance and Mental Health. Bram Wispelwey and Yasser Abu Jamei

Study on “Depression associated with greater risk of cardiovascular disease”

A new study co-led by Simon Fraser University provides further evidence of the link between depressive symptoms and an increased risk of heart disease and early death. The global study tracked 145,862 middle-aged participants from 21 countries and found a 20 per cent increase in cardiovascular events and death in people with four or more depressive symptoms. The risks were twice as high in urban areas -- where the majority of the global population will be living by 2050 -- and more than double in men.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Roadmap for Mental Health and Psychosocial Needs Commitments

In December the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement passed a resolution committing the movement to take action on mental health and psychosocial needs. They have now produced a roadmap developed by national societies, the IFRC and the ICRC coordinated by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Project to inform how the movement will implement these commitments from 2020-2023. The roadmap for implementation is available here.

Psychosocial Safety: Pathways to psychosocial safety for Syria’s displaced children and adolescents policy brief, Save the Children.

This policy brief brings to light some of the psychosocial-related priorities highlighted by displaced Syrian children and their caregivers when discussing durable solutions, which typically receive less attention in durable solutions frameworks than the physical, material and legal aspects of durable solutions do. By introducing the concept of ‘psychosocial safety’, this brief offers an overview of the impacts of displacement on psychological and social processes that are crucial to a child’s healthy development and provides recommendations on how targeted interventions can support protective factors in order to contribute to progress towards durable solutions.
Opportunities for members

Grand Challenges Canada call for proposals

The newly relaunched Global Mental Health program hosted at Grand Challenges Canada is excited to announce the launch of its first call for proposals! Made possible by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) UK Aid through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), this first round of seed funding will focus on the mental health and wellbeing of young people. This call for proposals seeks bold ideas to meet the needs of the most vulnerable young people aged 10 to 24 years who are living with or at risk of mental health conditions. Specifically, we are looking for innovative approaches to enhance mental health literacy and/or provide youth-friendly services while taking into account the complex social and environmental factors that impact and shape the mental health of youth. Approaches should be culturally sensitive, community driven, and engage young people and stakeholders with lived experience from the outset. Successful proposals will be awarded seed grants of up to $250,000 CAD over 18 to 24 months to develop and test the proposed innovation. For more information on the Global Mental Health program, including how to apply, please visit the Global Mental Health page on Grand Challenges Canada’s website.

Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health Resources Request

UnitedGMH is looking for resources on integrating mental health interventions in care for non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Specifically, UnitedGMH is looking for research that provides evidence for the integration of mental health interventions with NCD treatments leading to better NCD outcomes. Have any? Please do share with christie@unitedgmh.org if you can!

Survey to input into the Data Harmonisation working group of the International Alliance of Mental Health Research Funders.

A serious barrier to understanding mental health conditions has long been the inability to aggregate data across different research efforts. In the wake of COVID, it will be more essential than ever to be able to combine studies and arrive at overall conclusions about the impacts on mental health around the globe. The Data Harmonization working group of the International Alliance of Mental Health Research Funders (IAMHRF) is proposing a minimum set of demographic questions to be collected from funded mental health research projects. The IAMHRF is seeking to promote the uptake of a few shared measures that researchers use alongside any other instruments that may further their research interests so that data aggregation may be simplified across the mental health field. The expertise of BluePrint Group Members is an essential component in successfully harmonizing data collection and advancing the mental health field. Please provide input and help develop a set of common demographic measures by following this link. The survey will be open until October 15th, 2020.
Welcome to new members

The BluePrint Group now has over 800 members. Anyone can sign up to the group via this link. A full list of our members is available here. Welcome to new members from:

Welcome to new members from:

- AIESEC
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- Berkshire Vision
- Cape Mental Health
- Carleton University
- Doers
- InnerHour
- Johns Hopkins University
- HBGI
- IFRC Psychological Centre
- IOM
- Inuka
- Lancashire and South Cumbria Foundation Trust
- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
- Masawa
- Mental Care Liberia
- Mental Health Uganda
- MESPERO
- MRC
- Sehat Jiwa
- South Institute
- Stanford University
- Sustainable Development Goals Hub Universitas Indonesia
- The Kays Foundation
- Turkish Red Crescent
- University of Manchester
- University of Warwick
- Validity Foundation
- YMCA of Greater Seattle
- World Economic Forum