2014 Geneva Prize for Human Rights in Psychiatry

Nominations are sought for the 2014 Geneva Prize for Human Rights in Psychiatry, an award made every three years for exceptional achievement in defending human rights in psychiatry. Mme Ruth Dreifuss, former President of Switzerland, will preside over the international jury. The Foundation would like to invite you to nominate a candidate who you consider deserves the award, and also to disseminate the attached Guidelines to colleagues working in the field of psychiatry. The Prize will be presented at the World Psychiatric Association's Congress in Madrid, 14th – 18th September 2014. Visit the Foundation's website - www.geneva-prize.ch – for more information on how to nominate and the guidelines.

The Centre for Applied Research and Evaluation International Foundation (Careif) launch Essay Initiative

Careif is an international mental health charity with a special focus on promoting the health and well-being of young people living in culturally diverse societies around the world. They are pleased to announce the launch of their 2013 Essay Competition. The subject of the competition is ‘Protecting and promoting the mental health and well being of children in care’. For more information, log onto www.careif.org/young-people/young-people.html.

Puppetry Group – Greece

In March 2013 the puppetry group of mental health service users of SOFPSI N.SERRON made its first public performance, appealing to adults and children of all ages. Mental health service users not only created their marionettes, which are true gems of artistic craftsmanship, but were also master puppeteers during the show. Using puppetry as an educational tool to enhance self-determination of service users and reduce social stigma has had a significant impact: 600 children and adults attended the performance. They now want the project to culminate in a national tour, where the positive interaction between performers and audiences will enable participants to experience how puppeteering is a liberating and rewarding way to find one’s own form of expression. To view the group’s first public performance, log onto http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nxVzuIrJmY&feature=youtu.be. SOFPSI N.SERRON is a member of EUFAMI.

Hafal - Lights! Camera! ACTION!

Hafal’s Lights! Camera! ACTION! Campaign calls upon services across Wales to deliver on the new Mental Health Measure and Strategy. In the past two years service users and carers have successfully campaigned for the new law and policy. Now these are in place it’s time to turn words into action; hence Lights! Camera! ACTION! The campaign is supported by mental health charities Bipolar UK, Hafal and the Mental Health Foundation. Their mobile studio will be on location at 22 local county events taking place throughout the summer. The campaign will be officially launched by Health Minister Mark Drakeford at the National Assembly on the 2nd May and will conclude with a red-carpet event at the Senedd on World Mental Health Day in October. Hafal is a member of EUFAMI.

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