

Declaration of Budapest 1992: ASSURING THE MENTAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN

PROCLAMATION: MAY 14, 1992

The International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions affirms the right of every child to achieve his full physical, emotional and educational potential, consistent with the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child and the World Health Organization Recommendation (Paper #623), 1977) that all countries should have a National Plan for Child Mental Health. The goal of all health care is to prevent disorders that interfere with healthy growth and development. It is the right of all children to receive appropriate care and treatment. The goals of optimal development, care and quality of life for all children are achieved when all sectors of society work together with families for the best for their children.

The International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions affirms the following rights for children and adolescents:

1. Children should be protected by suitable prevention measures, a supportive family, preventive health care and educational opportunity.
2. Children with emotional, mental and developmental difficulties should receive early and accurate evaluation and diagnosis. Social, emotional and biological factors influence children's development and may need to be considered in an evaluation of the child and his family.
3. Children and their families should have the opportunity to benefit from the full range of modern treatment and care appropriate to their individual needs. All interventions should be provided by trained and experienced clinicians and other professionals.
4. Children with persistent chronic conditions should be provided treatment and care with the goal of maintaining them within their families and communities. When care outside the family is required, children should have the right to live in environments which provide them with continuity of care, affection and concern, normally provided by the family. Such treatment should be as close to home as possible in the least restrictive environment with the highest quality clinical treatment.
5. To achieve these goals, a national and community need professionals who are committed to planning for the needs of children and adolescents, creating and delivering services for children with mental, behavioral and developmental disorders.

Therefore:

The International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions recommends that each nation implement a plan for the recognition and support of the discipline of child and adolescent psychiatry, clinical psychology and allied professions concerned with the mental development of children. A national plan must assure:

- a. a high-level postgraduate training in child and adolescent psychiatry and clinical child psychology and allied professions;
- b. that medical education is attentive to the mental health needs of children and their families and included in the curriculum of undergraduate and graduate training;
- c. a sufficient number of professionals who are available for prevention, early intervention and treatment;
- d. appropriate resources in the community for all children;
- e. adequate and accessible facilities for treatment and care.

To implement a national plan for children and adolescents, it is essential for a nation to have academic departments and divisions of child and adolescent psychiatry committed to the highest quality care and the advancement of knowledge through research.

The profession of child and adolescent psychiatry will help assure the availability of unique, multifaceted knowledge and care, which a community should provide for its children.

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