



BASEL DECLARATION ON COMMUNITY CARE



Community care is the approach to mental illness that supports and treats people with psychiatric disabilities in a domestic setting, rather than in a psychiatric hospital segregated from society.

Community care means treating and enabling people to live in the community in a way that maintains their connection with their families, friends, work and community, acknowledging and supporting each person's goals and strengths to further their recovery in their own community.

Community care is a human right.

The empowerment and self-determination of people with psychiatric disabilities, as persons as well as citizens, must be guaranteed to achieve all this.

In order to turn community care from a curse into a blessing for the family and for society as a whole, the following results must be achieved throughout Europe:

- Formal and informal **SUPPORT** for service users and carers
- Equitable access to **SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY** of the person's own locality in the least restrictive environment
- Reduction of **STIGMA** affecting mental illness, which represents a heavy burden for families, reduces access to services and hinders integration into society, work, housing and opportunities to form relationships
- Right to **CHOOSE** for families whether or not to accept a caring role and a tangible recognition of it
- Promotion of **SOCIAL INCLUSION**
- Foster **RECOVERY** from the experience of mental illness for both service users and carers

Representatives from the 44 EUFAMI family associations and delegates from across all parts of Europe confirm their support for this declaration following their participation at the EUFAMI Congress held in Basel, Switzerland on 24th and 25th September 2011 and, in line with the World Health Organization's position on community care, **call for action** on the following conditions to be established:

- Provision of community care services for all who need them
- Provision of treatments and rehabilitation services not only to reduce symptoms but also to increase functioning and independence of users
- Coordinated policies, plans and programmes
- Financial and budgetary provision to support services in the community
- Greater awareness in society as the basis for fighting prejudice and reducing stigma

Community care is everyone's responsibility. Let us all commit ourselves to meeting the challenge

*Basel, Switzerland
25th September 2011*