

The participants to the conference “**DEMOCRAZIA E SALUTE MENTALE DI COMUNITA'** [Democracy and Community Mental Health Care] held at the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre in Trieste, Italy, from 21-23 June 2018, representing a broad variety of experts on the field of mental health coming from over 30 countries,

- Express our utmost concern about the Draft Additional Protocol to the Oviedo Convention¹, as proposed by the Council of Europe Committee on Bioethics, concerning ‘the protection of human rights and dignity of persons with mental disorder with regard to involuntary placement and involuntary treatment,
- Considering that the text of this Draft Protocol departs from the standards as issued by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).
- Emphasizing that this Draft Additional Protocol would place conflicting standards on all Council of Europe member states who ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (45 countries members of the Council of Europe),
- Considering that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) advises against this draft²
- Emphasizing that a large number of European civil society organizations have started a campaign to stop this Draft Additional Protocol (#WithdrawOviedo)³
- Emphasizing that a number of high-profile human rights bodies, including the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, and the United Nations CRPD Committee which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, expressed fundamental concerns about the Draft Additional Protocol, underlining the incompatibility of its approach with that of the UN CRPD, and requested that the proposal to draw up a protocol be withdrawn.
- Recognizing that involuntary placement and involuntary treatment amount to a large number of human rights violations, including the use of seclusion and restraint which violate the human rights of the person with unanimous decision ask
- To respect the human rights of person with psychosocial disabilities
- To withdraw the proposed Additional Protocol to the Oviedo Convention, concerning the protection of human rights and dignity of persons with mental disorder with regard to involuntary placement and involuntary treatment
- To focus on implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in all the work and processes of the Council of Europe

¹ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/bioethics/psychiatry>

² <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-EN.asp?fileid=22757>

³ The European campaign against the Draft Additional Protocol is supported by European Disability Forum (EDF), European Network of (Ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (ENUSP), Mental Health Europe (MHE), Autism Europe, Inclusion Europe and many other European civil society organizations.