

CCHR: Fight For Kids Drive Renews Pledge to Stop Forced Mental Health Treatment

Over 6 million US children are on prescribed psychotropics with debilitating adverse effects & youngsters are electroshocked; watchdog says a shift is needed

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES, June 27, 2022

/EINPresswire.com/ -- Recently the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights issued an annual report pointing out that there is an overreliance on mental health drugs, which are a “significant obstacle to the realization of the right to health.”[1] In light of this and because more than six million American children are prescribed psychotropic drugs, the mental health watchdog, [Citizens](#)

[Commission on Human Rights \(CCHR\) International](#) renewed its pledge to safeguard children and teens from forced mental health treatment. It is expanding its efforts to educate parents on their rights to decide their children’s healthcare needs, without coercion.[2]



Over 6 million American children are on prescribed psychotropics with debilitating adverse effects and youngsters are electroshocked; mental health watchdog says a shift is needed towards non-harmful care and human rights.

The UN Commissioner, Michelle Bachelet Jeria, recommended that the focus of mental health systems and services should be widened beyond the biomedical model to include a holistic approach that considers all aspect of a person’s life. This marks at least ten reports from international agencies such as the UN committees against torture and for human and children’s rights, and the World Health Organization since 2013 that have condemned coercive psychiatric practices. These include the following:

- 2013: The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No. 15: “A holistic approach to health places the realization of children’s right to health within the broader framework of international human rights obligations.... The Committee cautions against over-medicalization and institutionalization.”

- 2014: The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities reinforced “the right to be free from involuntary detention in a mental health facility and not to be forced to undergo mental health treatment....”[3]
- 2016: UN Human Rights Council Resolution: “[P]ersons with mental health conditions or psychosocial disabilities” may be subject to “unlawful or arbitrary institutionalization, overmedicalization and treatment practices that fail to respect their autonomy, will and preferences.”[4]
- 2017: UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health: “There is now unequivocal evidence of the failures of a system that relies too heavily on the biomedical model of mental health services, including the front-line and excessive use of psychotropic medicines....”[5]
- 2021: WHO Guidelines on mental health in the community: “A fundamental shift within the mental health field is required, in order to end this current situation.” Countries must ensure that “the right to refuse admission and treatment is also respected.”[6]

The agencies have called for legal provisions and policies permitting the use of coercion and forced interventions to be repealed, as they constitute torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.[7] Jan Eastgate, president of CCHR International said, “In the case of children and adolescents, they have no rights to consent and, as such, parents need to be much better informed of the risks of biological-based mental or behavioral ‘treatments’ recommended.”

CCHR’s [Fight for Kids](#) website is specifically for parents with a [“Know Your Rights”](#) section and other information, such as:

- The psychotropic (mind-altering) drugs being prescribed to children carry more than 409 international drug regulatory warnings.
- Drugs to treat “Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder” and anxiety, for example, are documented by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to cause “drug dependence” and can rival the withdrawal effects of hardcore street drugs such as heroin and cocaine.[8]
- If a child becomes aggressive or violent, it could be the prescribed psychiatric drug. Twenty-seven international drug regulatory agency warnings cite psychiatric drug side effects of mania, psychosis, violence and homicidal ideation.[9]
- FDA warns that antidepressants can induce suicidal behavior in anyone younger than 24 and may also cause hostility, aggression, psychosis and violence.[10]
- An international psychopharmacology expert estimated that 90% of school shootings in the decade leading up to 2012 were perpetrated by those taking antidepressants.
- Electroshock given children, as un-consenting individuals, is a form of torture and should be prohibited. The “treatment” can cause seizures, heart problems, confusion, memory loss and brain damage. WHO says there are no indications for its use in the treatment of children.[11]

- Children are normally diagnosed with mental disorders without ever being given a full medical checkup that could rule out medical conditions which can manifest as behavioral issues. Parents are rarely informed that many medical conditions can mimic the symptoms of a mental "disorder." This includes lead toxicity, allergies, adrenal dysfunction, and poor diet—to name a few.
- When a child is diagnosed with a mental disorder, the first thing to do is demand a lab test, brain scan, blood test or X-ray to substantiate the diagnosis (as one would do for a medical condition).[12]
- No child should be suddenly taken off a psychiatric drug; withdrawal should only be done under a doctor's supervision.

Eastgate said there needs to be paradigm shift in the way children with mental health or behavioral issues are treated. "It is egregious and unconscionable that in this day and age and healthcare advancement that in the mental health field children are being draconianly treated with mind-altering drugs, their developing brains can be violently subjected to electroshock—the passage of up to 460 volts of electricity sent through their young bodies—and that these practices have the ability to potentially drive them to acts of violence and suicide. Add to this, mental health screening in schools, which parents are not always aware are being conducted, can lead to these treatments being forcibly used on children.

"Parents should be fully informed of safe alternatives to mental health treatments that can cause addiction and other adverse and debilitating mental or physical side effects. The parents' fight for full information is a fight for kids' lives." [13]

[1] Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General, 49th session, Human Rights Council, "Summary of the outcome of the consultation on ways to harmonize laws, policies and practices relating to mental health with the norms of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and on how to implement them," 28 February–1 April 2022

[2] <https://www.cchrnt.org/psychiatric-drugs/children-on-psychiatric-drugs/>

[3] The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities General comment No. 1 (2014) of 19 May 2014, CRPD/C/GC/1. Article 12: Equal recognition before the law

[4] Human Rights Council, Thirty-sixth session, 11–29 September 2017, Agenda item 3, Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 28 September 2017, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G17/295/00/PDF/G1729500.pdf?OpenElement>

[5] "World needs 'revolution' in mental health care – UN rights expert," United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, 6 June 2017, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2017/06/world-needs-revolution-mental-health-care-un-rights-expert>

[6] "Guidance on Community Mental Health Services: Promoting Person-Centered and Rights-Based Approaches," World Health Organization, 10 June 2021, pp. 3 and 6, <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240025707>

[7] Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mental health and human rights, 24 July 2018, A/HRC/39/36, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G18/232/93/PDF/G1823293.pdf?OpenElement>

[8] <https://www.fightforkids.org/parents-know-your-rights>

[9] <https://www.cchrnt.org/2017/10/10/another-mass-shooting-another-psychiatric-drug/>;
https://www.cchrnt.org/psychiatric-drugs/drug_warnings_on_violence/

[10] <https://www.fightforkids.org/psychdrug-side-effects>

[11] <https://www.fightforkids.org/child-electroshock>, citing: Benedetto Saraceno, MD, "WHO RESOURCE BOOK ON MENTAL HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS AND LEGISLATION WHO 2005," p. 64

[12] <https://www.fightforkids.org/parents-know-your-rights>

[13] <https://www.fightforkids.org/alternatives>

Amber Rauscher

Citizens Commission on Human Rights

+1 323-467-4242

[email us here](#)

Visit us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/578386911>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2022 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.