

## **WCP – NGO Quadrennial Report 2011-2015**

Submitted by  
Darlyne G. Nemeth, Ph.D., M.P., M.P.A.P.  
Co-Secretary General

Kelly Paulk Ray, Ph.D., M.P.A.P.  
Vice President  
United States Chapter

Judy Kuriansky, Ph.D.  
Main representative of WCP to the UN

### **Introduction**

The World Council for Psychotherapy (WCP) is a world-wide membership organization that focuses on improving the mental health and well-being of people through the use of various forms of psychotherapy to reduce emotional suffering.

### **Aims and purposes of the organizations**

WCP has affiliates on every continent and in almost every country (except Antarctica). This organization supports grassroots efforts to ameliorate emotional trauma caused by environmental disasters, wars, conflicts, and human indignities. The main interventions include emotional disaster recovery, mental health workshops and trainings, individual and group interventions, education, and social policy.

Several significant contributions have been made to the mental health field and the world public at large that are relevant to the United Nations' agenda. On the international level, most important, the main representative of WCP to the UN, Dr. Judy Kuriansky, played a key role in the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders, and especially in the civil society interactive dialogues, during negotiations of the 2014 Open Working Group and the 2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Her advocacy and partnership with the Ambassador of Palau was crucial in the inclusion of "promote mental health and well-being" in target 3.4, and in the introduction/mission, of the SDGs (Agenda 2030), as described below.

On the national level, a highly significant event was the passage of the first-ever mental health law in China that became valid as of 1 May 2013. It took 27 years and two generations of Chinese colleagues to achieve this important landmark. One of the spearheads of this movement was Professor Xudong Zhao, M.D., WCP Vice President for China. The current law defines psychotherapy as "a scientific treatment in the mental health area," which constitutes an historical step by acknowledging the status and value of psychotherapy in China. According to Dr. Zhao, WCP was quite influential in the development of this law. A sub-organization of WCP, The Commission of Psychotherapy & Psychological Counseling of the Chinese Association of Mental Health, was salient in this process of accepting psychotherapy as a key component of fostering the mental health and wellbeing of the Chinese people.

In 2005, at its Congress in Argentina, South America, the WCP passed a resolution addressing the importance of ameliorating emotional suffering. This resolution was presented at the United Nations' annual NGO conference in New York on 7 September 2005 by WCP. Thus, WCP has taken a major role in promoting mental health and wellbeing throughout the world ever since.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

The scope of WCP's work has expanded in the following ways:

- a) Offering psychotherapeutic intervention to survivors of the recent terrorist attacks in Paris, France. This is being coordinated by WCP Board member, Dr. Nicole Aknin, who is also on the faculty of the Sigmund Freud University, with branches in Paris and in Vienna, Austria.
- b) Offering Katrina 10th anniversary Wellness Workshops at various neighborhood facilities in New Orleans, Louisiana to address the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary reactions of those who suffered in Hurricane Katrina. This effort is being coordinated and facilitated by Dr. Darlyne G. Nemeth at the Neuropsychology Center of Louisiana, with the assistance of Dr. Kelly Ray, Vice President for the United States' chapter, and co-facilitated by Dr. Judy Kuriansky, main UN WCP representative.
- c) Conducted trainings and workshops to build capacity for mental health services in Sierra Leone during the Ebola epidemic, and just recently post-Ebola, by Dr. Judy Kuriansky. Additionally, a book has been written on "The Psychosocial Aspects of a Deadly Epidemic: What Ebola Has Taught Us about Holistic Healing" with chapters contributed by representatives of major UN agencies, e.g. UNICEF and UN Women. (in press, by ABC-CLIO/Praeger).
- d) A book was published on "Ecopsychology: Advances from the Intersection of Psychology and Environmental Protection," co-edited by WCP's Dr. Darlyne Nemeth and Dr. Judy Kuriansky, with chapters relevant to the UN agenda. These include contributions by the UN delegate chairing the G77, in the OWG negotiations for the SDGs, as well as by an expert on Sustainable Development from the private sector, and a chapter on "Paradigm Shifts in Nature and Well-Being: Principles, Programs, and Policies about the Environment and Climate Change and Action by the United Nations for a Sustainable Future" authored by WCP UN main representative Dr. Judy Kuriansky.
- e) WCP has also held regional conferences (e.g., in Moscow, Russia in 2014 and in Malaysia in 2015). The theme of the Malaysian conference was "Psychotherapy to Improve Health and Education." Dr. Edward Chan, WCP Vice President from Malaysia, was the organizer of this conference.
- f) Drs. Judy Kuriansky, Darlyne Nemeth, and Father Wismick Jean-Charles presented a Symposium, at the American Psychological Association's Annual Convention in 2014 on "Environmental Protection, Climate Change, and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)."
- g) WCP has also expanded its influence into the Arab regions in the following ways:
  - 1) In 2012, an international meeting was organized by Professors Abbas Makke and Raddaoui in Marrakesh, Morocco. The theme of which was "Psychotherapy, Neurosciences and Culture." This international conference was under the High Patronage of the King of Morocco. Participants came from 20 countries. The Congress was co-sponsored by ten additional professional organizations. Wars and revolutions in the

Arab region make psychotherapy training difficult, but more than necessary, because most people suffering are currently untreated. The Congress was conducted under the High Patronage of the King of Morocco and all the attendees were invited to the Gala Dinner.

- 2) In 2013, Morocco hosted the European Congress of Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT). Psychotherapists from Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, and many other Arab countries were present.
- 3) The Pan African CBT Network was created in Marrakesh, Morocco.
- 4) Professor Raddaoui presented two lectures in Beirut, Lebanon on “Psychotherapy and Ethnopsychiatry” and “Psychotherapy and Pharmacotherapy” in which he addressed the particular suffering of immigrant peoples in western countries. The aims were (a) to develop a strong link between the East and the West of the Arab region and (b) to contribute to the development of psychotherapy training in medicine.

No changes in status, by-laws, or funding have occurred since 2010. A fellowship member status has, however, been created.

### **Contributions of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

Through the work of Dr. Judy Kuriansky, main WCP representative at the UN and chair of the Psychology Coalition of NGOs accredited at the United Nations, significant contributions have been made. These have included, for example:

- a) Signed on as a co-sponsor to statements submitted to the United Nations, e.g., for the Commission on Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the International Day of the Cultures of Peace, and the UN General Assembly High-level Meeting on “Disability and Development,” and many other meetings.
- b) Co-sponsored side events at UN Commissions: These include:
  1. **Side event at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Commission for Social Development:**  
10 February 2015, on “The Impact of Climate Change on Children’s Health and Well-Being.”
  2. **Side event at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Commission for Social Development:**  
12 February 2015, on “The Role of Education and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Combating the Ebola Crisis and Preventing Future Pandemics.”
  3. **Side event at the 59<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women:**  
9 March 2015, on “Women’s Mental Health and Wellbeing in the Post- 2015 Agenda.”
  4. **Side event at the 59<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women:**  
19 March 2015, on “Women in Crisis Situations: Current Challenges to the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration.”
  5. **Side event at the 58<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women:**  
11 March, 2014, on “Accomplishments of NGOs of the First Ladies of Africa towards the Advancement and Achievement of the MDGs:

Psychosocial and Human Rights Projects and Perspectives,” featuring projects of First Ladies of Africa related to the MDGs, including eradicating poverty, improving access to education, empowerment of women and girls, maternal and child health. A video about these projects was presented at a health summit in February 2013 by U.S. Doctors for Africa, and at a gala in May 2013 organized by Voices of African Mothers, this video can be viewed at

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2k7Bvxtnbl&feature=em-upload\\_owner](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2k7Bvxtnbl&feature=em-upload_owner)” and press coverage at:

[http://blacktiemagazine.com/society\\_march\\_2014/commission\\_on%20\\_the\\_status\\_of\\_women.htm](http://blacktiemagazine.com/society_march_2014/commission_on%20_the_status_of_women.htm).

6. **Co-sponsored Psychology Day at the United Nations:** 30 April 2015, on “Psychology’s Contributions to the United Nations Post 2015 Global Agenda.” The 2014 conference on 24 April was on “*Psychological Contributions to Sustainable Development: Challenges and Solutions for the Global Agenda*,” chosen to coincide with the focus on the new agenda. The 2013 conference was on the topic of “Violence in a Global Context: Antecedents, Consequences and Prevention.” Deputy Secretary General of the UN, Jan Eliasson, sent a statement: “*Thank you for your efforts to help us address the roots of these complex and crucial challenges. I welcome your emphasis on introducing psychology students to the global implications of their newly chosen field of study. We at the United Nations look forward to learning more about your work and finding scope for your expertise to be utilized.*”
  7. **Co-sponsored (as civil society partners) a Forum at the UN:** 17 December 2014, sponsored by the Missions to the UN of Liberia, Guinea, Uganda, the United States and the Netherlands, on “Eradicating stigma & promoting psychosocial wellbeing, mental health and resilience in the Ebola epidemic through policies and practices to protect the global community,” co-organized by Dr. Kuriansky, who also spoke on the panel.
  8. **Co-sponsored the second International Day of Happiness (IDoH), held at UN headquarters:** 20 March 2014. WCP UN rep Dr. Judy Kuriansky served on the planning committee, and spoke at the previous year’s panel on the IDoH.
- c) Active in Major Groups and Other Stakeholders in advocacy at the Open Working Group and the Intergovernmental Negotiations Sessions of the SDGs, and partnership with the Mission of Palau, in successful advocacy for

“promote mental health and well-being” to be included in the SDGs (Agenda 2030).

- d) The above-mentioned advocacy also focused on the topics of the elimination of racism, and on measures of development “Beyond GDP.” Many advocacy papers were written and distributed, including, for example: Kuriansky, J. and Okorodudu, C. (2015). Recommendations for the SDGs at the 2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations: Psychological Contributions Across the Agenda, including Well-being, Human Rights, Resilience, Racism, and Beyond GDP.
- e) Advocacy at the World Conference of Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, with three presentations at the Youth Forum, a presentation at the Ignite Stage, and oral statements made in the intergovernmental negotiation sessions by WCP main UN representative, Dr. Judy Kuriansky.
- f) Co-sponsored side event at the Civil Society conference, August, 2015, about “Youth and Mental Health at the UN,” organized by Dr. Judy Kuriansky, who also spoke on the panel.
- g) Videos produced and shown, about “Youth and Mental Health: UN and UN Ambassadors Speak Out”; written and produced by WCP’s main UN rep Dr. Judy Kuriansky. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtkvLSMILmE>
- h) Papers published about the Girls Empowerment Project, multi-stakeholder project co-developed by the WCP main UN representative, Dr. Judy Kuriansky, (e.g. Berry, M.O., Kuriansky, J. Lytle, M. and Vistman, B., 2013). Entrepreneurial training for girls empowerment in Lesotho: A process evaluation of a model programme. *South African Journal of Psychology*. Volume 43 Issue 4 December 2013 pp. 446 - 458.

### **Participation in Meetings of the United Nations**

As WCP’s main ECOSOC representative to the United Nations, Dr. Judy Kuriansky regularly attends UN activities, conferences and briefings, sponsored by ECOSOC as well as DESA, other agencies, missions, NGO committees, and civil society groups. Dr. Judy Kuriansky was selected (as one of only two chosen civil society representatives) by the office of the President of the General Assembly to make an oral presentation at the 4th Interactive Dialogue on Harmony with Nature held in April 2014. The event was webcast and is on the un.org site.

Also, at the 65th UN DPI/NGO Conference held 27-29 August 2015, on "2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda," Dr. Judy Kuriansky contributed to the "zero draft" Conference Action Agenda produced by a working group of experienced civil society representatives.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

No financial assistance has been received from or requested of the United Nations.

## **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

WCP has been very supportive of the UN MDGs. These have been addressed in a recent anthology, “Ecopsychology: Advances from the Intersection of Psychology and Environmental Protection,” co-edited by Drs. Nemeth and Kuriansky, and presented in the following plenary speeches at the 2014 WCP Congress in Durbin, South Africa:

- Kuriansky, J. and/or Nemeth, D.
  - “The Global Future of Psychotherapy: Breaking News from the United Nations with Approaches to Achieve the Millennial Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals”
  - “The Psychological and Neurocognitive Aftermath of Environmental Trauma”
  - “Intervention for Environmental Trauma: Worldwide Resiliency, Responsiveness and Recovery Approaches and Techniques for Psychotherapists”
- Nemeth, D. and/or Ray, K.P.
  - “The Changing Role of the Psychotherapist during Times of Environmental Trauma: From Listener to Leader”
  - “Psychotherapy in the USA: Ethical/Philosophical Issues”
  - “Recreating Hope in Neurocognitively Impaired Patients via Group Therapy”
  - “The Importance of Preparedness and Emotional Recovery for Environmental Trauma”
  - “WCP’s Disaster Trauma Training Certification Program (DTTCP) Guidelines”

A project is ongoing in Haiti, related to poverty eradication and building mental health resources and capacity, in cooperation with the University of Notre Dame of Haiti. Trainings and workshops are held yearly by international partners and also throughout the year by local partners.

Another project was completed about entrepreneurship and life skills education for girls’ empowerment and HIV/AIDS education in Lesotho, as a multi-stakeholder project, with partners including the First Lady’s office, the UN mission, and various civil society NGOs on the ground. This is in the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sr0EQeqOGtY>

A video was also produced about the progress of the First Ladies of Africa in achieving the MDGs: <https://youtube/oO7ZojYJido>.

Several projects have been done with the ECOSOC-accredited NGO, Voices of African Mothers addressing the MDGs, including participation of Dr. Judy Kuriansky on the panel during the CSW 2010, on “The Critical Role of Women in the Attainment of the MDGs” panel participant with Voices of African Mothers, presented at the 54<sup>th</sup> UN Commission on the Status of Women, UN headquarters, New York, 5 March 2010. Also Kuriansky hosted the awards gala by Voices of African Mothers to First Ladies of Africa about their achievements in the MDGs.

A project is in the planning stages for mindset training to address youth unemployment in Uganda. This is a multi-stakeholder project with the government of Uganda, the mission to the UN, and various other stakeholders.

**Additional Information –**

- A. The WCP's next World Congress will take place at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France, in July 2017.
- B. In September, 2016, the WCPAC (African Chapter) will hold a meeting entitled, "Psychotherapy meets Africa: A Multidisciplinary Fabric" at Kesii University in Kenya. It will be chaired by Professor Edward Bantu, Vice President for Kenya.
- C. Another important conference was held in Marrakesh, Morocco in 2015; this was organized by Professor Kamal Raddaoui. The theme of this conference was "The Development of Psychotherapy in the Arab World."
- D. In Beirut, Lebanon, a conference was held in 2015 highlighting the field of Psychotraumatology and addressing the effects of war and revolution on people. This was also organized by Professor Raddaoui.
- E. Professor Abbas Makke, Marrakesh's representative to WCP and the SPPC president in Lebanon, is currently supervising a project on gender equality and mental health intervention in Syria.
- F. Professor Kamal Raddaoui is in the process of creating the Moroccan Integrative Psychotherapy Association. All the presidents of the National Psychotherapy Associations will be members of the board.
- G. Professor Abbas Makké and Professor Raddaoui managed to organize a successful Congress under the auspices of the WCP despite the wars in Syria, Iraq, Palestine, etc. and the recent events in the Arab Region (Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Soudan, Yemen, etc.).