

**UN NGO Committee on Mental Health Parallel Event
Commission on the Status of Women 58**

The MDGs and Progress in Advancing the Mental Health of Women and Girls

Date: Thursday, March 20, 2014 @ 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Location: United Nations Church Center
First Floor Chapel
777 UN Plaza, New York, NY

Sponsors:

NGO Committee on Mental Health; Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations (CCCUN);
International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies; NGO Forum for Health, Geneva; International Council of Women;
National Council of Women, USA; Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities;
International Federation of Women Lawyers

The MDGs pose challenging opportunities to promote women's and girls' mental health. The World Health Organization projects that depression will become the second chronic illness burden globally by 2020 and first by 2030. Since depression is 50% higher for females than males, WHO (2008) reports that it is already the leading cause of disease burden for women across all countries and income levels. Gendered patterns of depression and early child abuse interact with substance abuse and violence adversely to affect global communities. Although the MDGs include a focus on maternal health and HIV, the lack of focus on overall health, including mental health is lamentable. The ability of women to achieve and sustain meaningful social change mandates robust mental health. Policy recommendations build on the 2013 CMH World Mental Health Day statement that mental health be included in sustainable and social development.

Speakers:

Leonardo SC Castilho

Human Rights Officer
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
United Nations, New York
"Women, Human Rights Violations, and Well-Being"

Afton Beutler

President, Mothers Legacy Project and
Director Global Education Opportunity Programs
"Maternal Health and Well-Being"

Zahra Jamal, PhD

Senior Research Associate, Civil Islam Initiative, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality,
University of Chicago
"Mental Health of American Muslim Women after the "War on Terror""

Anne Benvenuti, PhD

Moderator, Co-Convener, CMH Gender Perspectives and Mental Health Working Group

Q and A Discussion