

The International Journal of Mental Health, Psychosocial Work and Counselling in Areas of Armed Conflict

ஆயுதப் போராட்டம் நடைபெறும் இடங்களில்
உளநலம்,
உளசமூக வேலைகள்,
உளவளத்துணை தொடர்பான
சர்வதேச இதழ்

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About this journal

The International Journal of Mental Health, Psychosocial Work and Counselling in Areas of Armed Conflict is a multi-disciplinary journal. It is meant for mental health workers such as psychiatrists, psychotherapists and psychiatric nurses, but also for counsellors, psychosocial workers and community workers, staff members of NGO's developing mental health or psychosocial projects, and international experts in the field.

The purpose of the journal is making existing knowledge on mental health, psychosocial work and counselling in areas of armed conflict explicit and available for interested parties in areas of armed conflict and elsewhere. The journal will publish articles that are not only relevant for professionals working *in* areas of armed conflict, but also for those working with refugees *from* areas of armed conflict in Europe, Australia, North- America etc. In order to maintain the quality of the articles published in this journal, it has an international board of editors who are experts in the fields covered by this publication. By publishing the journal in an area affected by armed conflict (Sri Lanka), we hope to ensure a high degree of practical relevance of its contents.

The journal publishes articles based on empirical research, articles based on practical experience, and literature reviews. Articles may also be abridged and adapted versions of material published in specialised handbooks. In addition, the journal welcomes descriptions and evaluations of current projects in the fields of community mental health, counselling or psychosocial work, including training approaches for local professionals. Descriptions of individual cases that in some way are illustrative for a more general problem, and reviews of relevant books are also welcome.

The initiative to start the journal was taken by 'Shanthiham' (House of Peace), *Centre of Expertise on Mental Health and Counselling*. Shanthiham was founded in 1987 during the armed conflict

in Jaffna, North Sri Lanka. Since its opening Shanthiham and related organisations have provided counselling and other forms of psychosocial help for an estimated 30.000 people. Shanthiham organizes training courses on counselling and community work and contributes to the education of medical students at the University of Jaffna.

The publication of the journal is supported by the *Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies* in Colombo. The Consortium is an association of agencies working in and supporting work in areas affected by conflict in Sri Lanka. The concern of the Consortium encompasses all areas of Sri Lanka, and all people affected by the civil and armed conflict in the country. The Consortium aims to enhance the quality, effectiveness, professionalism and transparency of its members so that they may better realise their objectives.

Editorial staff

Ananda Galappatti (Sri Lanka) psychosocial worker, is involved in training, service development, policy formulation and research in areas of armed conflict in Sri Lanka. He is based in Colombo and works independently or on a freelance basis.

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Submitting a manuscript

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References should follow the format in this issue.

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International board of editors

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Dr. Julia Bala (The Netherlands, originally from the former Yugoslavia), psychologist/psychotherapist, works in De Vonk, Amsterdam, a branch of Centrum 45, organisation for treatment and research on the consequences of organised violence. She works with refugee children and their families and is involved in research projects on the experiential world of refugees in the Netherlands.

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Kaz de Jong (The Netherlands), clinical psychologist, physiotherapist and movement scientist is mental health advisor Medicins Sans Frontières; MSF has implemented programs in Gaza, Bosnia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Lebanon, Rwanda, Poland, El Salvador and India. At present MSF is involved in projects in Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Chechnya, Colombia and Kashmir.

Dr. Anica Mikuš Kos (Slovenia), child psychiatrist, is trainer and program designer for war affected children in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Kosovo, Ingushetia, Georgia.

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Prof. Joop de Jong MD, PhD (The Netherlands), psychiatrist, psychotherapist, professor of mental health and culture at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, is the director of TPO (Transcultural Psychosocial Organization) - Peace of Mind, a WHO Collaborating Center for Refugees and Ethnic Minorities. TPO implements or supports project in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America (Algeria, Burundi, Cambodia, Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gaza, India (Tibetans), Kosovo, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Surinam, Uganda).

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