



WHO CC for Research and Training in Mental Health Trieste - Azienda Sanitaria Universitaria Integrata di Trieste

FRANCA AND FRANCO BASAGLIA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL - THE PRACTICE OF FREEDOM

# The right [and opportunity] to have a [whole] life

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL & CONFERENCE

**Trieste,  
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Best practices for empowerment, self determination,  
community resilience, wellbeing and human rights

[www.triestementalhealth.org](http://www.triestementalhealth.org)

## ABSTRACT FORM

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Abstract:

An approach to mental health practices, if it is mechanically subordinated to human rights claims, might unintentionally pave the way to ethical and legislative distortions. The culture of subjective rights, which did help to promote freedom and well-being under many historical circumstances, suffers from some structural limitations, which can occasionally clash with basic presuppositions in mental health treatment and practice. It may be useful to raise an alert on this point, because of the hegemonic position of a human rights approach in contemporary Western discourse and, recently, also in psychiatric deontology.