



The participants of the conference **“40#180 Democracy and Community Mental Healthcare. Participation, citizenship and reform processes in Italy and worldwide 40 years after law 180. Conference of collective subjects and organizations for change”** held at the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre in Trieste, Italy, from 21-23 June 2018, representing a broad variety of experts in the field of Mental Health coming from over 30 countries, express our utmost concern about the Draft Additional Protocol to the Oviedo Convention¹ as proposed by the Council of Europe Committee on Bioethics, concerning “the protection of human rights and dignity of persons with mental disorder with regard to involuntary placement and involuntary treatment”

- Considering that the text of this Draft Protocol departs from the standards enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).
- Emphasizing that this Draft Additional Protocol would place conflicting standards on all Council of Europe member states which have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (45 member countries of the Council of Europe),
- Considering that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) has advised against this draft²
- Emphasizing that a large number of European civil society organizations have started a campaign to stop this Draft Additional Protocol (#WithdrawOviedo)³
- Emphasizing that a number of high-profile human rights bodies, including the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, and the United Nations CRPD Committee which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, have expressed fundamental concerns about the Draft Additional Protocol, underlining the incompatibility of its approach with that of the UN CRPD, and requesting that the proposal to draw up a protocol be withdrawn.
- Recognizing that involuntary placement and involuntary treatment result in a large number of human rights violations, including the use of seclusion and restraint which violates the human rights of the person.

Based on a unanimous decision, hereby ask

- To respect the human rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities
- To withdraw the proposed Draft Additional Protocol to the Oviedo Convention, concerning the protection of human rights and dignity of persons with mental disorder with regard to involuntary placement and involuntary treatment
- To focus on implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in all the work and processes of the Council of Europe

¹ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/bioethics/psychiatry>

² <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-EN.asp?fileid=22757>

³ The European campaign against the Draft Additional Protocol is supported by European Disability Forum (EDF), European Network of (Ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (ENUSP), Mental Health Europe (MHE), Autism Europe, Inclusion Europe and many other European civil society organizations.