



ABSTRACT FORM

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Title of the contribution/Titolo del contributo	Good Practices in Community-Based Mental Health Services and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities		
Objectives/Obiettivi	Highlight the violations of the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities Human Rights Watch has documented in different countries; Demonstrate the importance of community-based, non-coercive practices in mental health services to the protection of the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities.		

Contents-text/Contenuto-testo:

Max. 400 parole/words

Human Rights Watch has documented human rights violations against persons with psychosocial disabilities in countries in Europe, North America, Africa, and Asia.

In [India](#), women and girls with disabilities are forced into psychiatric hospitals and institutions, where they risk physical and sexual violence and can experience involuntary treatment, including electroshock therapy. As one woman said, they are “treated worse than animals.”

Thousands of people with psychosocial disabilities are confined in institutions in [Croatia](#), despite some efforts by the government to support community-based living.

In the [United States](#), [France](#) and in [Australia](#), we documented lack of adequate mental health services and appropriate conditions for prisoners with psychosocial disabilities. In [Peru](#), we identified the barriers to voting for people with disabilities.

Human Rights Watch has also found that due to stigma and lack of adequate community-based support services, in many countries people with psychosocial disabilities end up shackled—chained or locked up in small confined spaces—sometimes for months or years at a time. These include countries like [Ghana](#), [Indonesia](#), and [Somaliland](#), and others in Asia and Africa. We are working with partners to push governments to end shackling, strengthen monitoring, and develop community-based mental health services. We are planning a global campaign against shackling to raise awareness and bolster coordination among different actors to end this grave human rights abuse.

To highlight essential components for the protection of people with psychosocial disabilities, Human Rights Watch is documenting good practices, including in community-based mental health services. Services should be consistent with international human rights standards, particularly the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, respect the will of the person, and be community-based.

We are pleased to highlight the work of the mobile team TandemPlus in Brussels, which provides community-based, user-driven support to people with psychosocial disabilities. This is a model that we believe other governments can learn from and adopt in their local context.

In Indonesia, the government developed a large-scale community outreach program. Health workers go house to house to collect data, raise awareness, and provide services, including on mental health. This program has reached over 30 million households. This is an important first step to make services accessible and combat stigma.

Governments, international organizations, civil society groups, including organizations of people with disabilities should exchange experiences and information about good practices, adapt them to local contexts and implement them to ensure protection of the rights of people with disabilities.