



**Report 2015 – 2017
of the
EFPA Board Human Rights and Psychology**

**To the EFPA General Assembly in Amsterdam on
July 15-16, 2017**

Point to note:

1. This report covers a period of 2 years, from the General Assembly 2015 till the General Assembly 2017.
2. Reports will be included in the material to be received and read by the Delegates to the General Assembly.
3. Apart from exceptional cases, to be decided upon by the Executive Council, there will be no oral presentations of committee reports to the General Assembly.
4. All reports will be accompanied by written recommendations of the Executive Council.
5. Proposals for decisions to be taken by the General Assembly need endorsements of the Executive Council.
6. Committees will be informed about decisions of the General Assembly affecting their remit or activities.

Please send the Report by April 30 to EFPA Head Office at headoffice@efpa.eu

Report 2015 -2017

Executive summary

The policy report of the EFPA Board Human Rights and Psychology (BHR&Psy) was accepted by the EFPA GA in July 2015¹. Its main objectives were met by the following working plan of the BHR&Psy 2015-2017.

This report describes the activities of the EFPA BHR&Psy, in particular: a) Advices to the EC, (b) Human rights education for psychologists, (c) Liaison with other working groups of EFPA, (d) Cooperation with MAs, and (e) Cooperation with human rights agencies and institutions.

The EFPA BHR&Psy proposes to the GA:

- (1) to promote Human Rights education for psychologists and psychology students,
- (2) to stimulate the forming of a Human Rights group in each member association and to organise events related to human rights,
- (3) to issue press releases on important UN human rights days, and
- (4) to organise events on the days that promote human rights.

Introduction

This report covers the activities of the EFPA Board Human Rights and Psychology performed during the period July 2015 – June 2017.

The General Assembly held in Milan in July 2015 it was decided that the Task Force on Human Rights should become a Board Human Rights and Psychology (BHR&Psy). The Board's objectives remained: to raise awareness among psychologists of human rights and (risks of) human rights violations, to prevent human rights violations, and alleviate the effects of human rights violations. All the activities that took place in the period 2015 – 2017 have anchorage in the Policy paper *Psychology matters in Human Rights - Human Rights matter in Psychology: EFPA policy and action in the area of Human Rights and Psychology* (May 2015)

Activities

In the period 2015 – 2017, the EFPA BHR&Psy met three times in various places and more times virtually. The members evaluate their collaboration very positively.

Activities delivered in the period 2015 – 2017 can be divided into six areas:

1. Advices to the EC
2. Human rights education for psychologists
3. Liaison with other working groups of EFPA
4. Cooperation with MAs
5. Cooperation with human rights agencies and institutions
6. Other activities

¹ *Psychology matters in Human Rights - Human Rights matter in Psychology*, EFPA policy and action in the area of Human Rights and Psychology. Draft developed by the Task Force Human Rights, May 2015. See: <http://human-rights.efpa.eu/>

1. Advices to the EC

Since EFPA established the BHR&Psy as its main body for dealing with human rights issues, over the past two years there were several topics that BHR&Psy was asked to discuss, prepare or develop.

Activities as performed and achievements:

- EC asked the BHR&Psy to review carefully the Hoffman report and to provide recommendations for EFPA. It was finalised in November 2015².
- Press releases were published each year (to be found on the EFPA website) for special days like the International Children's day (1 June), World Refugee Day (20 June), International Children's Rights Day (20 November), and International Human Rights Day (10 December)³.
- The BHR&Psy mini website⁴ was maintained and the following information can be found on it: list of Board members, policy paper, report for the period 2013 - 2015, announcements and information on important activities the Board takes part in, press releases and contact information.
- Also examples of good practice, when our colleagues reacted on human rights violations, were published on the BHR&Psy website⁵.
- After the meeting with the FRA in November 2015, the BHR&Psy suggested to EC to join with the *Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP)* to have a reciprocal dialogue.
- The EFPA EC requested the BHR&Psy to participate in the Working Group on Refugees; three members of the BHR&Psy joined the WG. In September 2016, U. Wagner became the convenor of the working group.
- A 'Human Rights track' at the ECP2017, consisting of several symposia and participation of board members in various other events. Some examples of symposia:
 - *Human Rights and Applied Psychology: Inclusion and Development*
 - *Psychologists for Human Rights: a global perspective*
 - *Human rights and psychology, hand in hand, addressing the challenges of childhood risk and adversity*

2. Human rights education for psychologists

The Board's strongest focus in the 2015 – 2017 period were the activities related to the expert meeting in Venice, held from 9 till 11 October 2016 in Venice, Italy with the title ***Human Rights Education for Psychologists and Fundamental Rights Awareness***.

Activities as performed and achievements:

- The EFPA BHR&Psy established cooperation with the EIUC (the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation) and the FRA (the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights).
- An Organising committee and an Advisory committee were formed.

² Available at <http://human-rights.efpa.eu/recommendations-to-visit-and-read/recommendations-to-efpa-after-the-hoffman-report/>

³ All available at <http://human-rights.efpa.eu/press-release/>

⁴ See: <http://human-rights.efpa.eu/>

⁵ See: <http://human-rights.efpa.eu/recommendations-to-visit-and-read/german-colleagues-warn-for-misuse-of-victims-of-sexual-violence-in-the-battle-for-public-opinion/> and <http://human-rights.efpa.eu/recommendations-to-visit-and-read/dealing-with-the-flight-to-germany/>

- Fundraising activities took place and the meeting was financed by FRA, by EFPA and private donations, including crowd funding⁶.
- Together with EFPA HO, the EFPA BoEduc Aff, the FRA and the EIUC, the BHR&Psy prepared and held the meeting with 24 experts in human rights and psychology in EIUC's premises in Venice.
- A book of abstracts was released at the website in pdf format.
- A website was created <http://congress-humanrights.efpa.eu/>
- A report has been published⁷.
- An action plan was made for further development of Human rights education for psychologists.
- A symposium with the title *EFPA initiative: Human rights education for psychologists* will be held at the ECP2017 in Amsterdam, 11 – 14 July 2017.

3. **Liaison with other working groups of EFPA**

When planning to organise the expert meeting Human Rights Education for Psychologists, colleagues of the EFPA Board of Educational Affairs (BoEA) joined the organising committee.

Activities as performed and achievements:

- The EFPA BoEA supported the initiative and one member took very active part as a member of the organising and programme committee.
- Together with the EFPA Board of Ethics (BoE), the BHR&Psy jointly wrote a request to the EFPA EC to support the APA, regarding the measures taken by the USA administration to indefinitely blocking all refugees from Syria, and to barring entry for 90 days to individuals from seven Muslim-majority countries.
- Two joint symposia of the BHR&Psy and the BoE will be held at the ECP in Amsterdam 11 – 14 July 2017: *Psychology, Ethics and Human Rights: Uneasy bedfellows or good companions?* and *Voluntary euthanasia and ethical psychological practice*.
- A joint symposium of the SC Disaster, working group Refugees and BHR&Psy will be held at the ECP in Amsterdam 11 – 14 July 2017: *Psychosocial Needs of Refugees*.
- Members of the BHR&Psy will take part at various other symposia at the ECP2017, e.g. of the Board of Educational Affairs, the Board of Ethics and the IUPsyS.

4. **Cooperation with MAs**

Cooperation with EFPA MAs related to topics of human rights was important for raising awareness about human rights.

Activities as performed and achievements:

- EFPA/BHR&Psy accepted to be partner with the Greek MA and The University of Ioannina (Greece) to organise a European Conference concerning Human Rights, entitled: *Human Rights in a Changing World: Research and Applied Approaches*. It took place from 25 till 27 May 2016 in Ioannina.
- BHR&Psy has informed the MAs, with the help of the EFPA Head office about the meeting in Venice, the crowd funding and the live streaming at the end of the meeting.

⁶ See <https://gogetfunding.com/human-rights-education-for-psychologists/>

⁷ See: humanrightsforpsychologists.eu

- In co-operation with the Swiss MA the meeting of the Board was organised in March 2017 in Geneva.
- Co-operation is established with the Croatian MA related to the annual psychological conference that will be held in November 2017 in Zadar, Croatia. The conference theme will be human rights and social justice.

5. **Cooperation with human rights agencies and institutions**

In order to be connected with agencies, institutions and organisation that are concerned with the human rights issues, contacts and collaborations were established and maintained.

Activities as performed and Achievements:

- Cooperation with the EIUC and the FRA was established and developed for human rights education.
- A visit to FRA in Vienna was organised for the Board members in November 2015.
- Members of the BHR&Psy took part at various conferences, e.g. on Human Rights Education at the Roosevelt College in Middelburg (Netherlands) in December 2015. <http://www.hrea.org/>
- At a WHO meeting in February 2016 in Geneva.
- The convenor was invited to join the LGBTI and Health Awareness Raising meeting organised by FRA in February/March 2016 in Vienna.
- Idem to take part in the Fundamental Rights Forum in Vienna in June 2016 organised by FRA.
- Board members visited the WHO, Department of Mental Health in Geneva in March 2017.
- Board members visited the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, Humanitarian Funds (Torture and Contemporary Forms of Slavery) in Geneva in March 2017.
- Board members visited the International Organization for Migration in Geneva in March 2017.
- BHR&Psy joined the Human Rights Education Association: see www.hrea.org

6. **Other activities**

Activities and Achievements:

- Answering requests from European members or organizations about whether Human Rights are violated (Croatia, Russia, Turkey).
- The convenor was appointed to the APA Commission on Ethics Processes (April 2016).
- The convenor presented at the CANPA conference, November 2017, 'Freedom of Identity' and with a Round Table about Children's Rights, and is appointed as a member of the International Advisory Board of CANPA <http://www.crcp2016.org/>
- The convenor took part at the NAOP Silver Jubilee Convention in Allahabad (India) in February 2016 where she had a presentation with the title: *Towards a Human Rights based and oriented Psychology* which was published afterwards in the journal *Psychology and Developing Societies* 28(2) in 2016.
- All members were involved in studying literature, reports and documents. They also visited workshops, symposia, conferences, relevant organizations, refugees and other groups under threat.

Meetings (also videoconferences and Skype meetings) during term 2015-2017

- 1) 15 September 2015, Skype meeting
- 2) 13 October 2015, Skype meeting
- 3) 6 & 7 November 2015, Vienna, Austria
- 4) 4 May 2016, Conference call
- 5) 27 & 28 May 2016, Ioannina, Greece (election of 3 co-convenors)
- 6) Expert meeting, 10 & 11 October 2016, Venice
- 7) 17 & 18 April 2017, Geneva, Switzerland
- 8) Numerous meetings and skype meetings related to the expert meeting in Venice

Information & recommendations for GA & Member Associations

The General Assembly is asked to take notice of the following:

1. To stimulate the forming of a Human Rights group in the member associations and/or to organise events (e. g. conferences) related to human rights.
2. To support MAs to link with the national Human Rights institutions.
3. To give publicity to or to organize events / symposia on the following International UN Days:
 - March 21, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in October 1966 as International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
 - October 17, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty can be traced back to 17 October 1987. On that day, over a hundred thousand people gathered at the Trocadéro in Paris where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948, to honour the victims of extreme poverty, violence and hunger.
 - November 20, Universal Children's Day. The date 20 November, marks the day on which the Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.
 - December 2, The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, marks the date of the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (2 December 1949).
 - December 10, Human Rights Day. The UN General Assembly proclaimed 10 December as Human Rights Day in 1950, to bring to the attention 'of the peoples of the world' the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations.
4. To work together on awareness of and knowledge about the relation between Human Rights and psychology through press releases, web site, communication with EFPA bodies and member associations, and presentations and publications to psychologists and the general public.

Proposals for decisions by GA

The General Assembly is advised to endorse the following proposal:

1. To support further development of *Human Rights Education for Psychologists* in cooperation with human rights experts, EFPA Board Educational Affairs, FRA (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights) and the EIUC (European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation)



Members of the group:

Convenor:	Polli Hagenaars, The Netherlands
EC liaison:	Robertas Povilaitis, Lithuania
Croatia	Marlena Plavšić
Cyprus	<i>Evita Katsimicha, corresponding member</i>
EFPSA	Ana Odabašić
EFPSA	<i>Ringaile Slapsinskaite, corresponding member</i>
Finland	Ville Ritola
France	Karin Teepe
Germany	Ulrich Wagner
Germany	<i>Gert Sommer, corresponding member</i>
Greece	Artemis Giotsa
Ireland	Paul D'Alton
Italy	Bruno Mazzara
Norway	Kerstin Söderström
Portugal	Rute Agulhas
Romania	Sorana Mocanu
Turkey	<i>Ulaş Başar Gezgin, corresponding member</i>
United Kingdom	Tony Wainwright

Attachment 1**WORK PLAN 2015 – 2017****General objective 1 - Human Rights and psychology: education, awareness, responsibility and action.**

1. Discussing the policy paper of the BHR&Psy with EFPA Member Associations, Boards, Standing Committees and Task Forces.
2. A 2-day conference on the topic of Human Rights and Psychology will be organized in Ioannina, Greece in May, 2016.
3. An expert meeting on Education in Human Rights for Psychologists is being organized in cooperation with the EIUC in Venice in October 2016.
4. Use of the EFPA website to promote and disseminate information and tools for Human Rights.
5. BHR&Psy meeting in combination with the yearly conference of the Croatian association in Pula, in November 2016.⁸
6. Disseminating press releases on important international Human Rights days.⁹
7. Stimulating participation of member associations in national Human Rights institutions.
8. Stimulating member associations to form a Human Rights group.
9. Articulate Human Rights aspects in the ethical codes of Member Associations, conforming to the EFPA Model Code.

General objective 2 – external cooperation with relevant Human Rights organizations: strengthening existing relationships and establishing new ones.

Increase the reach of our work and actions through collaborations with other Human Rights related institutions and organizations:

- Strengthen the relationship and practical collaborations with the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) in Vienna.
- Strengthen the relationship and practical collaborations with the EIUC.
- Where appropriate and possible, connect with other Human Rights Agencies, e.g. the HREA, Peter Mittler (Emeritus Professor of Special Needs Education at the University of Manchester) and the UNHCR.

Specific actions:

1. The BHR will be actively involved in the FRA Forum, a 3-day event that will take place in Vienna in June 2016. Main topics will be inclusion, migration and refugee protection, and humans in the digital age.
2. Organize a Human Rights and Psychology strand at the coming ECP2017 in Amsterdam and make this a tradition for future ECPs.
3. Publishing when useful, e.g., in The European Psychologist.

⁸ Under consideration

⁹ March 21, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
 October 17, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
 November 20, Universal Children's Day
 December 2, International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
 December 3, UN International Day for Persons with Disabilities
 December 10, Human Rights Day

4. With the assistance of the FRA, the BHR will join the Human Rights Platform uniting Human Rights organizations from across Europe.
5. When asked for, and when appropriate, advise on issues where psychologists are involved in human rights matters.

General objective 3 – Internal development of BHR

- Improve team communication and synergy for a more efficacious approach to Human Rights.
- Welcome new members and integrate them in our activities.
- Exchange information about publications, conferences, actions and so on.

Specific actions:

1. Two face-to-face meetings yearly with all members.
2. Regular Skype meetings.
3. A more concrete activity plan with actions, deadlines and stakeholders that is continuously under revision.
4. Elect of co-convenors.