

Presentation A.G.M.I. Elise Torossian 20-9-2013 GAMIAN-Europe 16<sup>th</sup> Convention  
Vilnius Lithuania

Kinisi Proaspisis Dikeomaton Psychika Asthenon (KI.PRO.DI.PS.A.)

**Advocacy Group for the Mentally Ill – english title acronym ( A .G.M.I . ) is an Non Governmental Non Profit Organization** Established 1999

The organization is registered under the Associations and Foundations Laws of 1972.

Registered in the records of Associations according to the article 24 of Psychiatric Treatment law 77(1) 97.

The objective outlines and determines the policy of A.G.M.I. and its activities which aims to protect safeguard the rights of citizens with mental health problems and that of their family and carers advocating for the improvement of mental health care, for their empowerment , combating stereotypes exposing affected citizen's to prejudice, discrimination and marginalization. All contacts/ activities of the organization involves are aimed in combating prejudice for mental illness ,contributing in promoting mental health and preventing mental illness.

Activities on a collective and personal level are directed towards different Ministries, Departments,  
Conveying and promoting the views derived under the needs of this group to decision makers, authorities etc..

A.G.M.I. responds to cooperation's, disseminating info, endorsing declarations, supporting and adopting positions etc formulating policies in Europe in the field of mental health.

A.G.M.I. Responds to activities and tasks under its membership statue to European organizations networkings making mental health issues a broader issue in Europe etc.....

### **PROMOTION OF MENTAL HEALTH**

*Events organized by AGMI ' initiative, promoting message of W.F.M..H.Day's yearly Theme*

The variety of the community recipients of the message on various scale who within the cooperation in the organizational part get in touch with AGMI's event, OR are attendance to the event and are recipient of the messages

Promotion of Mental Health by AGMI is achieved also between others through its membership statue in participating as partner to European projects .

### **Areas of advocacy work of AGMI is by**

Raising awareness, displaying concern, submitting suggestions views , contributing on the policy and shaping in regard of mental health and mental disability issues through mandated authorities channels on the, The National Reform Programme (N.R.P.) / The U.N Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities / D. Institutionalization / etc

These above under the core work of the organization we believe is a good practice.

### **Activities specifically under our membership to GAMIAN EUROPE of 2013**

*A.G.M.I. contributed in responding to Gamian –Europe’s survey –“The Patients view on Mental Health and work”*

*This relates also in promoting of the message of A.G.M.I .adopted and dedicated its activities on the occasion of the “**European Year of Citizens 2013** “ of the aspect of empowerment of users in expressing their views for issues of their concern*

We hope that under our capacity our small initiatives together with all other stakeholder’ s efforts in the field will be the starting point of bigger changes and results in mental health field.

### **FINANCIAL CONCERNS**

We are experiencing a trend in reduced donations and charitable giving to our organization attributed by current economic challenges.

This is troublesome because it's often during these tough times, that people most need mental health support services. Looking ahead, it may mean making tough choices .

Elise Torossian  
President

### **Elise Torossian president of AGMI (Cyprus )**

Has been involved from early 1980 and served on several boards of various NGOs, in different areas of health, cultural, networks from different positions such as president, coordinator, secretary , volunteer, etc

In 1999 she was the Founder and first president of Advocacy Group for the Mentally Ill (A.G.M.I.)

She has been a strong voice and an active participant in advocacy issues in the field of mental health and human rights, advocacy efforts in the area and efforts of influencing policies and legislations.