



The 8th Annual Psychology Day at the United Nations

Contributions from Psychology are offered on Reducing Health Inequalities Within and Among Countries: Psychology's Contributions to the United Nations Post-2015 Global Agenda

New York, New York, April 3, 2015 - Psychologists who represent NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) accredited at the United Nations will host the 8th Annual *Psychology Day at the United Nations* on 30 April.

The theme of this year's conference is *“Reducing Health Inequalities Within and Among Countries: Psychological Contributions to the United Nations Post-2015 Global Agenda.”* The topic was chosen because UN member states and other UN-related agencies are currently holding meetings to confirm the new Post-2015 agenda, which focuses on sustainable development including the goal to reduce inequality within and among countries. *Psychology Day at the UN 2015* features presentations from psychologists, government policy makers and UN representatives that address the relevance of the science and practice of psychology in reaching this goal.

The meeting will be held at UN headquarters, Conference Room 3, with entry at 47th Street on First Avenue. The event is from 3:00p.m. to 6:00p.m.

Psychology Day at the United Nations is an annual event sponsored by psychology organizations that have Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) status accredited by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and/or affiliated with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI).

The event offers UN staff, ambassadors and diplomats, NGO representatives, members of the private and public sectors, students, invited experts, guests, media and other stakeholders, the opportunity to learn how psychological science and practice contributes to the United Nations agenda, as well as to exchange ideas and establish partnerships on global issues.

"Psychologists have long been involved in ensuring equity amongst peoples and eliminating health disparities, and are now among the stakeholders actively engaged in contributing to the UN Post-2015 agenda to achieve these goals," said Neal Rubin, Ph.D., conference coordinator who is a UN NGO representative for the American Psychological Association and a Professor at the Illinois School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University in Chicago. "It is appropriate that the Psychology Day programme this year focuses on equality as a cross cutting issue, particularly given that the UN has launched the International Decade of People of African Descent to recognize the promotion and protection of the human rights of this group worldwide."

Opening remarks will be given by H.E. Ambassador Rubén Ignacio Zamora, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations. Given the focus of the Post-2015 agenda, and of psychology as a discipline, on a "people-centered" approach, Ambassador Zamora notes,

“The human being is integral. A human-centered sustainable development process needs to look at the individual as a totality of the physical body and psyche. They cannot be separated.” Health crises worldwide, including the Ebola epidemic, underscore the necessity of access to resources by all individuals, families, and communities for the well-being of affected populations and all others. This program examines global health inequities with special attention to understanding and addressing psychosocial well-being, often overlooked in health crises but crucial for resiliency. Presenters will address promoting mental health and well-being and integrating psychological science into the UN Post-2015 health care policies and programmes.

The keynote address will be delivered by Brian Smedley, Ph.D., co-founder and Executive Director of the National Collaborative on Health Equity, a Washington, D.C.-based project that connects research, policy analysis, and communications with on-the-ground activism to advance health equity.

Panelists include Barbara C. Wallace, Ph.D., founder of the Annual Health Disparities Conference at Teachers College, Columbia University, where she is Professor of Health Education; Tehereh Ziaian, Ph.D., Professor in the Division of Health Sciences at the University of South Australia; George Ayala, Psy.D., Executive Director of the Global Forum on HIV & MSM; and Bonnie K. Nastasi, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at Tulane University.

The discussant is H.E. Ambassador Dr. Caleb Otto, Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations, a public health physician who partnered with the Psychology Coalition of NGOs accredited at the UN to insure the inclusion of the promotion of mental health and well-being in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Psychologists representing NGOs accredited at the UN come from varied specialties, including clinical, educational, social, developmental, counseling, community and industrial/organizational psychology. They participate in committees and working groups on various topics (e.g., the family, migration, technology, human rights, women’s rights, children’s rights, climate change and disaster recovery) and at invited high-level meetings; present side events at UN commissions (e.g., on Social Development and the Status of Women); design, implement and evaluate original field projects related to the global goals (e.g., poverty eradication in Haiti and women’s empowerment in Africa).

Admission to the conference is free. A reception (for a small fee) following the sessions will be held at the nearby Cibo Restaurant, 767 2nd Avenue (between 41st-42nd Streets).

For up-to-date information regarding registration, please visit <http://unpsychologyday.org> or contact the Planning Committee Chair: Dr. Neal Rubin (nealrubin@hotmail.com). For a list of Co-Sponsoring Organizations, see: <http://unpsychologyday.jimdo.com/co-sponsoring-organizations/>