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Right to mental health: opportunities and challenges for child and adolescent psychiatry on the way to its realization

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The lecture will provide modern understanding about:

- a) obligations of states and other stakeholders with regard to realization of the right to health and other related human rights;
- b) practical application of human rights based approach in the field of child and adolescent psychiatry;
- c) challenges and opportunities for child and adolescent psychiatry on the way to expanding human rights friendly and effective services for child and adolescents.

Mental health is increasingly recognized as a new priority of the 21st century. This is a unique opportunity globally, regionally and nationally to invest in child mental health through effective promotion of emotional well-being of everyone and through effective services based on modern human rights based and public health approaches.

In this regard it is important to critically assess practices that are being provided and funded globally so far. Many of them need to be replicated as good practices. However, there are many practices worldwide that are not based on modern human rights and public health principles. They may do more harm than good and should be discontinued. For example, neglect of basic principles may lead to institutionalization, coercion, excessive medicalization. Examples of such practices, as well as good practices will be provided.