

Human Rights  
in  
Mental Health

## Call for applications



### Jim Birley Scholarship 2017

**For young mental health professionals and other stakeholders  
who have shown exemplary commitment to issues of human  
rights in mental health**



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# Jim Birley Scholarship

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In November 2013, the Board of the Federation Global Initiative on Psychiatry decided to honor its late Past Chairman Dr. Jim Birley by instituting a scholarship focusing on issues that Dr. Birley was especially committed to: issues of human rights in mental health, and stimulating young mental health professionals and other stakeholders to pay special attention to the rights of persons with mental illness.

The Jim Birley Scholarship will be provided once a year during a high visibility event to a young mental health professional or another stakeholder (user, family-member or carer) who has shown exemplary commitment to the issue of human rights in mental health.

In 2017 one scholarships of 5,000 euro will be awarded (in case of equal points the scholarship might be divided between two winners). The scholarship is to be used for a cause to be proposed by the winner and should contribute to the strengthening of human rights in the field of mental health.

A committee consisting of four members, including a member of the Birley family, will select the winners from the submitted applications.

## How to apply?

Candidates for the Jim Birley Scholarship should write to Human Rights in Mental Health-FGIP and in a letter explain:

- Why they should be eligible,
- Provide details about their background and what they have done to further human rights in mental health, and
- What they intend to do with the scholarship.

Two letters of recommendation should be added.

Applications should be submitted before June 11, 2017.

The Selection Committee will then select the winners of that year.

The winners of the award will be announced in late June 2017.

## The 2016 winner

The 2016 Scholarship was awarded to an outstanding advocate for human rights in mental health, Mr. Agus Sugianto from East Java, Indonesia.



Agus Sugianto is a 38 years old mental health advocate who currently studies English education and hopes to obtain his bachelor degree this summer. He has been a private English teacher for the past ten years, is a batik designer as well as a professional pencil drawing artist.

Mr. Sugianto experienced a major depression in 1999 as a result of which he was shackled (“*pasung*”) multiple times. His mental health problem led to loss of human dignity, stigma and maltreatment. As he himself writes, *“somehow I managed to survive and overcome all and choose to use my experiences and knowledge for advocating the mental health and human right issue since. My last diagnosis was bipolar disorder, and it does not constrain me to remain involved in mental health and human rights advocacy. I am giving all my effort and dedication to fight the stigma attached to the people with mental health problems and to pasung victims. I pour all my talents in arts such as drawing, paintings and batik art, to be used as a media in mental health campaign. I also become speaker in many national events and forum to campaign those issues.”*

Mr. Sugianto involvement in mental health advocacy is impressive and a true example to others. He is a member of *Komunitas Peduli Skizofrenia Indonesia* (Indonesian Community Care for Schizophrenia), a member and voluntary activist in *Bipolar Care Indonesia*, *Harmony in Diversity* and other user support groups in his country.