



## MANIFESTO ON MENTAL HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE LOCAL ELECTIONS 2009

### MENTAL HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS: NATIONAL ISSUE, LOCAL SOLUTIONS

Mental health is a fundamental human right. Ireland's mental health services are chronically under-funded. People experiencing mental or emotional distress continue to be excluded from the social, cultural and economic life of our communities and experience huge discrimination.

### YOU CAN HELP GET MENTAL HEALTH BACK ON THE AGENDA.

#### Did You Know?

- 1 in 4 of us will experience a mental health difficulty in our lifetimes. If not ourselves it will be a family member, friend, neighbour or colleague.
- Almost 200 children were inappropriately placed in adult psychiatric facilities last year.
- Ireland currently has the fifth highest rate of youth suicide in the EU for 15-24 year olds.
- The Mental Health Commission has estimated the direct annual cost of poor mental health in Ireland is a staggering €3 billion.
- There is a consistent link between the experience of mental health difficulties and low income, poor education, unemployment and low social status.

# YOUR COUNCILLORS AND YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

Your local councillor is there to represent you and to ensure our communities are inclusive.

## WHEN TALKING TO CANDIDATES, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IRELAND WOULD LIKE YOU TO DEMAND THE FOLLOWING:

1. Pass a motion following the election of the new Council calling on the Government to implement its mental health policy, *A Vision for Change*.
2. Actively promote mental health and include those with experience of mental health difficulties in all local consultations and community development projects.
3. Ensure that mental health equality training is provided for local authority personnel, particularly those involved in strategic planning, social inclusion, access and service provision.
4. Map local service need and delivery of employment schemes for people with experience of mental health difficulties.
5. Introduce a protocol between the local authority and the Health Service Executive to ensure the housing rights of individuals with experience of mental health difficulties are met.



To find out more about mental health and human rights in your area, log onto:

[www.amnesty.ie](http://www.amnesty.ie)