

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing in response to recent article on mental health (Date it appeared) by Colm O’Gorman, Executive Director of Amnesty International Ireland.

This article drew attention to the profound problems with our mental health services. As a concerned voter/ member of Amnesty International I wish to add my own voice to this message.

With the local elections just around the corner now is the time for all candidates to show a strong commitment to protecting and promoting the rights of all individuals in our community, particularly those experiencing mental health difficulties. Candidates can do this by acting on five simple promises:

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 HSE to ensure the housing rights of individuals with experience of mental health difficulties are met.

Yours Sincerely,

Name and Address