



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PSYCHIATRIC NURSES

COMMUNIQUE

The International Association for Psychiatrist Nurses held her 15th Annual Scientific Conference tagged "Accra 2023" at The Ghana Registered Nurses and Midwives Association National Secretariat. Accra Ghana.

Theme: "Agenda 2030: Repositioning Mental Health Care"

From all the paper presentation and panel discussions, the IAPN was challenged with the following:

1. It was identified that the DSM and ICD are more Westernized and there was no real representation of Africa and the Black community and recognition or consideration of African culture in these manuals. This includes the implications for language local views and interpretations of Westernized language.
2. Psychological first aid was looked at and it was encouraged for training to go on in various countries to help support deal with the impending situation arising from disasters in the continent.
3. It was also identified that the LGBTQ+ situation is dividing the continent in a certain way as different countries hold different views and different kinds of policies are being made either by criminalizing it or legalizing it. The real challenge is what role will IAPN be playing in influencing some of this situation in their various units and as an international body? It was decided that as psychiatric nurses IAPNs' main focus will be on supporting people with their mental health challenges irrespective of their sexual orientation or choice.
4. Different chapters of the organization have been asked to identify training needs to be implemented and to be supported by the organization at different times.
5. Members were encouraged to engage and introduce another professional to join the conference.

Signed:

Communique drafting committee Chairperson

Mr Jackson Seyram Avotri