

## ADDITIONAL CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

### IRCT 10th International Scientific Symposium: Delivering on the Promise of the Right to Rehabilitation

Mexico City, Mexico, 5 to 7 December 2016

[www.irctsymposium2016.irct.org](http://www.irctsymposium2016.irct.org)

***There was an impressive response to the initial call for abstracts for this landmark Symposium and we welcome the continued interest of authors. Given the delay in holding the Symposium, which is now in December 2016 and new expressions of interest, we want to give interested authors the opportunity to contribute to the Symposium. We are now opening an additional call for abstracts to complement the wide range of abstracts we have already received. In order to accommodate the strong interest in the Symposium, we will expand the Symposium programme to three full days in order to feature as many contributions as possible.***

***The call closes on 29 February 2016, and we encourage new authors to pay particular attention to themes two and three.***

The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) and Mexican rehabilitation centre Colectivo Contra la Tortura y la Impunidad (CCTI) are hosting a global interdisciplinary scientific symposium from 5 to 7 December, 2016 in Mexico City.

The IRCT International Scientific Symposium, which is the tenth of its kind, is a unique opportunity for the global torture rehabilitation sector to come together to exchange experiences and research on developments in the rehabilitation of survivors of torture. It is the first cross-disciplinary global event to examine in detail how to deliver on the promise of the right to rehabilitation as set out in the Convention against Torture and elaborated in General Comment 3 of the United Nations Committee against Torture.

The Symposium is being held prior to the IRCT General Assembly where the global movement of over 140 IRCT member centres from over 70 countries will gather. The event is an opportunity to learn from those within the movement and from the broader research community and service providers working with survivors of torture.

We are committed to creating opportunities for a range of presentations from across the many settings where survivors are in need of rehabilitation. We are keen to receive abstract, poster or workshop submissions from survivors of torture and those working in low and middle-income contexts.

The Symposium, **Delivering on the promise of the right to rehabilitation** has three major themes:

THEME 1: **What works for whom, where and why? Trends and developments in research on rehabilitation methods** will include presentations on the efficacy of treatment approaches, working with survivors of torture in different contexts, multidisciplinary approaches to treatment, working with multiple centres or other actors and how to embed evaluation programmes and research into core centre work.

THEME 2: **What are the challenges in implementing the Right to Rehabilitation? Getting the needed political, financial, legal and public support** investigates the key challenges to implementation of the right to rehabilitation. It is a potentially broad theme that we hope will receive contributions from multiple disciplines and sectors based on findings from diverse political and economic contexts. It covers a variety of topics, including 'advocacy and communications approaches to hold governments to account for delivery of torture rehabilitation services', 'financing of the right to rehabilitation' and 'experiences of interacting with public health providers in States where torture is systemic'.

THEME 3: **What can we learn from others? Sharing knowledge with other human rights and health sectors** is intended to be cross thematic and cross sector. It will include presentations from other sectors, such as public health, mental health, violence against women and girls, HIV AIDS and from those engaged in survivor participation or advancing advocacy or campaigning to ensure States provide services for survivors and victims of human rights abuses. We are encouraging researchers and practitioners from others sector to submit abstracts so we can learn from each other.

A full list of topics under each theme is available at:  
[www.irctsymposium2016.irct.org/page/33/abstract-submission/](http://www.irctsymposium2016.irct.org/page/33/abstract-submission/)

## **Scientific Committee and host organisations**

The Symposium is supported by a prominent and diverse international and interdisciplinary Scientific Committee. The Committee members are:

Dr. Florence Baingana, Makerere University School of Public Health, Uganda

Dr. S. Megan Berthold, University of Connecticut School of Social Work, USA

Dr. Mario Campuzano Montoya, Independent psychoanalyst, researcher and trainer,  
Mexico

Dr. Sotheara Chhim, Transcultural and Psychosocial Organization Cambodia, Cambodia  
Prof. Sofia Gruskin, University of Southern California, USA  
Dr. Brigitte Khoury, American University of Beirut, Lebanon  
Dr. Angela Nickerson, University of New South Wales, Australia  
Dr. Nimisha Patel, University of East London, United Kingdom  
Mr. Bhava Poudyal, Independent MHPSS practitioner, Sri Lanka  
Dr. Jose Quiroga, IRCT International Forensic Expert Group, USA  
Prof. Derrick Silove, Psychiatry Research and Teaching Unit and Centre for Population  
Mental Health Research, Southwest Sydney Area Health Service and University of New  
South Wales, Australia  
Dr. Nora Sveaass, University of Oslo, Norway  
Mr. Carlos Jibaja Zarate, Director of Mental Health, Centro de Atención Psicosocial, Peru

And it is chaired by IRCT Executive Committee members:

Dr. Pradeep Agrawal, (Asia Region), Society for Social Research, Art and Culture, India  
Dr. Boris Drozdek, (Europe Region), Psychotrauma Centrum Zuid Nederland, the  
Netherlands  
Ms. Bernadette McGrath, (Pacific Region), Overseas Services to Survivors of Torture  
and Trauma, Australia  
and our co-host Ms. Felicitas Treue, Colectivo Contra la Tortura y la Impunidad, Mexico

The IRCT 2016 General Assembly and Scientific Symposium is co-hosted by the Mexican IRCT member centre Colectivo Contra la Tortura y la Impunidad (CCTI). Please click for more information about the [IRCT](#) and [CCTI](#).

## **Submission process and important dates**

This additional call for abstracts closes 29 February 2016. Abstracts can only be submitted through an online submission, registration and review system at <http://irctsymposium2016.exordo.com/login>.

The review process will take place from 29 February to 15 May, after which authors will be notified whether or not their abstract has been accepted.

Further information is available below and at <http://www.irctsymposium2016.irct.org>.

## Abstracts and formats

Authors can submit abstracts for either

- Poster presentation
- Oral presentation
- Workshop

### Posters

Accepted posters may be placed in a designated poster area during the Symposium and the Symposium programme will contain a 1.5 hour poster session with other opportunities for viewing and engaging. Given that the Symposium is taking place just before the IRCT General Assembly, posters will be visible throughout.

### Oral presentations

A plenary speaker will introduce concurrent working sessions with a 30 minute presentation. Concurrent working sessions will bundle similar issues and include two 20 minute presentations with up to 40 minutes for discussion.

Abstracts submitted for 'oral presentation' may be accepted by reviewers as such or as 'poster presentation'.

Authors may choose to base their oral presentation on a paper that they would potentially like the IRCT to publish in the Symposium report or in a special edition of the IRCT's [Torture Journal](#).

In any event, a Symposium report will be published based on the presentations made.

### Workshops

A group or an institution wishing to fill a full two hour session with an interactive workshop activity can submit an abstract for a workshop. The abstract follows the same format as the other options (see more below).

## Abstracts

Abstracts must be limited to a maximum **500 words** including

- Title (maximum 25 words) according to format in Topics and Review criteria below.
- Background (maximum 100 words)
- Methodology including ethics and research standards review (maximum 200 words)
- Result (maximum 150 words)
- Funding and No Conflicts Declaration (maximum 25 words).

This relatively long abstract format has been chosen to accommodate abstracts based on studies, projects or experiences that are not research projects (such as case reports). Authors do not need use the full amount of words available unless they feel this is necessary.

Authors may upload up to two images (graphs etc.).

References should not be included.

We are committed to creating opportunities for a range of presentations from diverse settings and presenters, including those working in contexts where limited resources do not allow them to engage in the Symposium. We invite authors to submit abstracts on:

- Projects using a range of scientific approaches and research methodologies
- Quantitative research projects, qualitative research projects (including one or more case reports) or mixed methodologies
- Work which highlights gaps in research and knowledge and are not based on a completed study but where there is emerging evidence
- Planned, ongoing or completed projects.

Please note that it is important that all abstracts have a very clear methodology section, including number of study participants where applicable.

Also note that the IRCT is committed to promoting ethical best practice so please clearly state in the abstracts the ethics and research standards and/or clinical ethical standards applied and mention any applicable formal ethical review process.

## **Languages**

The Symposium will be bilingual in English and Spanish and will be supported by simultaneous translation.

A Spanish quick guide for the submission system is available in the [Spanish section of the Symposium website](#).

Those working in French, Arabic or Russian may submit their abstract in those languages at the review stage as we aim to be inclusive.

## **Book of abstracts and Copyright**

The IRCT will publish a book of abstracts containing all accepted abstracts (only in English or Spanish). Authors must transfer copyright to the IRCT for the publication of their abstract as a condition of acceptance.

A copyright transfer will be requested from interested authors who successfully submit abstracts based on papers, before publishing these in the Symposium report or any special edition of the Torture Journal.

## **Scholarships and travel grants**

The IRCT will, pending funding, support a small number of authors of accepted abstracts from low-income environments with travel, accommodation and per diem grants. Further information on how to apply for these travel grants will be available on [www.irctsymposium2016.irct.org](http://www.irctsymposium2016.irct.org).

We will do our best to secure funding support, however, you are strongly encouraged to access your own networks for funding to participate.

## **Contact information**

For general enquiries, please send an email to both Leanne MacMillan, Director of Research Development, at [lm@irct.org](mailto:lm@irct.org) and Lars Døssing Rosenmeier, Research Development Officer, at [ldr@irct.org](mailto:ldr@irct.org).

For any questions relating to use of the Ex Ordo system please use the Support form (accessible through the "Support" link below and left of the log-in field on <http://irctsymposium2016.exordo.com/login>).