

## Resolution in Support of the Sustainable Development Goals

*An official statement from the Global Alliance on Behavioral Health and Social Justice (formerly the American Orthopsychiatric Association)*

The Global Alliance embeds its work in principles of human rights and social justice and is committed to universal health coverage that includes prevention and treatment of mental health and addiction, and promotion of wellbeing. The Sustainable Development Agenda, which was adopted by world leaders at the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, universally applies the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to all. The aim for 2030, is that countries will mobilize efforts to “end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind”.

The Global Alliance supports all the SDGs, with a special focus on SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), the goal of which is to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages. For the first time, world leaders have committed to “preventing and treating non-communicable diseases, including behavioral, developmental and neurological disorders, which constitute a major challenge for sustainable development” (3.4); “strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse” (3.5); achieving universal health coverage (3.8), and increasing health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce (3C).



Recognizing the importance of mental health and wellbeing, and in keeping with our priorities to achieve universal health coverage as a basic human right, the SDGs identify the importance of mobilizing all countries to address the social determinants of health using human-rights and community-based lenses. Although more people are living healthier lives than in the past, needless suffering remains, particularly related to behavioral health. Achieving wellbeing requires an ongoing commitment from all, and the SDGs provide an opportunity for the global community to prioritize mental health by providing a framework for encouraging stronger efforts.

### Additional Resources

World Health Organization

[https://www.who.int/mental\\_health/suicide-prevention/SDGs/en/](https://www.who.int/mental_health/suicide-prevention/SDGs/en/)

The Lancet Commission on Global Mental Health and Sustainable Development

<https://globalmentalhealthcommission.org/>

UNICEF

<https://www.unicef.org/agenda2030/>

UN Development Programme

<https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

UNAIDS

[http://www.unaids.org/en/AIDS\\_SDGs](http://www.unaids.org/en/AIDS_SDGs)

UN Women

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs>

### Relevant Articles in the *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*

Gil-Rivas, V., Handrup, C., Tanner, E., & Walker, D. (2019). Global mental health: A call to action.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/ort0000373>

Miller, A., Hess, J.M., Bybee, D., & Goodkind, J.R. (2018).

Understanding the mental health consequences of family separation for refugees: Implications for policy and practice.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/ort0000272>

Leong, F., Park, Y.S., Kalibatseva, Z. (2013)

Disentangling immigrant status in mental health: Psychological protective and risk factors among Latino and Asian American immigrants.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/ajop.12020>

Kilmer, R.P., Cook, J.R., Crusto, C., Strater, K.P., Haber, M.G. (2012). Understanding the ecology and development of children and families experiencing homelessness: Implications for practice, supportive services, and policy.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1939-0025.2012.01160.x>

Vargas-Barón, E. (2019). Early childhood policy planning and implementation: Community and provincial participation.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/ort0000381>

### How You Can Help

- Join our Global Mental Health Task Force. Learn more at [www.bhjustice.org/global-mental-health](http://www.bhjustice.org/global-mental-health).
- Raise awareness! Show that you are #IntoMentalHealth on social media and help #stopthestigma.
- Donate to an organization that advocates for or provides behavioral health services.
- Join an international coalition focused on mental health, such as the Movement for Global Mental Health.

