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10 March 2016

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I hope that all of you managed to get some rest over the holiday period. This is to update you on the work that WPA has been doing since my last communication with you.

WPA-Lancet Commission: When the survey closed a fortnight ago we had received nearly 2400 responses. These are being analysed. A writing group is being identified and we hope to have the final report ready for publication in the autumn this year.

WPA-Careif Statement on Migration: Please find attached herewith a joint statement WPA issued with an educational charity about migration and concerns in Europe. This accompanies an earlier statement prepared by Dr Schouler-Ocak and colleagues on behalf of the WPA. Both these statements are attached herewith for your information and action.

WPA-APAL Bogota Declaration

Although there has been a major focus on migration and asylum seekers in Europe, there are estimated to be 16 million migrants in Latin America. The first ever round table was held in Bogota. This was a combined effort between WPA and APA and the declaration signed by the President of APAL and myself along with 17 Presidents of national associations is also attached herewith in both English and Spanish versions.

Three further round table meetings are under preparation. The next meeting on Fragmented Families as a result of migration is being held in Guatemala City next week. This will be followed by one in the autumn to be hosted by Norwegian Psychiatric Association again on mental health needs of refugees and asylum seekers. There are plans to have another one on Early Interventions to be hosted by Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists later in the year.

If your organisation/association would like to host a round table on a topic of local interest then please do get in touch with me and we shall arrange accordingly.

WPA Position Statement on Recruitment

Recruitment of medical students into psychiatry remains a major concern for WPA. In many countries there are not enough applicants whereas in some countries there is an increasing demand. We must explore these reasons and learn from examples of good practice. I am also attaching a position statement which has been approved by the Executive Committee.

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Social Discrimination

The work on social discrimination against individuals with mental illness is progressing apace. We hope to have the preliminary report ready by the end of May 2016. Meanwhile a statement has been accepted for publication by Lancet Psychiatry which will be sent to you with my next message.

Best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dinesh Bhugra". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dinesh Bhugra, CBE
President, World Psychiatric Association