

#StopThePress
#StigmaKills
#NoRestraint
We are human beings too.

The People's Spotlight

A BEACON FOR TRUTH IN A SEA OF PROPAGANDA

#Survivor
#RecoveryIsReal
#KeepHopeAlive
WHAT'S CRAZY IS THESE
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS!

NO. 101, VOL. 13

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2016

SPECIAL EDITION, \$7

Monday, August 1, 2016 3:00-6:00 PM

CALL TO ACTION



ORGANIZING FOR ACTION AT THE BOSTON GLOBE - 135 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MA

STAND UP AND SPEAK OUT A CALL FOR REAL CHANGE IN THE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

As the Boston Globe has recently highlighted in its sensationalized Spotlight series on mental health, there is a mental health crisis in the state of Massachusetts and beyond. What the Globe and other entities fail to acknowledge is where these systemic failures are found.

The failing of the mental health system is not due to a lack of diagnosis and treatment. It is due to a lack of funding for community resources and a failed model of coercive care that largely dismisses evidence-based practices. The use of force, coercion, and application of a one-size-fits-all approach in the system only drives away people who may want or need assistance.

The Boston Globe's exploitation of fear and hysteria through their very narrow and largely inaccurate portrayal of the members of our community as violent and out of control serves only to fan the flames of prejudice, discrimination, and stigma.

The stories of people with the lived experience of being involved in the mental health system go largely unnoticed and unheard. And though we have a unique insight, we have been left out of the conversation of mental health reform on a national level.

On Monday August 1st from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm we will hold a vigil for those who we have lost as a result of a failed system.

All are invited to join us at 135 Morrissey Boulevard in Boston at 3:00 pm. We will have photo displays of individuals who were labelled as "mentally ill" and have died in recent years due to brutal mental health and criminal justice practices.

The event is intended to rebuke the photo display in the Globe Spotlight article that portrays us as murderers and offer an alternative perspective in which we are far more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators.

Please reach out to people with lived experience, allies, family members of those we have lost, anyone with a conscience and join us in solidarity.

FACT: People in the mental health system die 25 years earlier than the general population.

As many groups gain civil rights, the liberties of those with psychiatric diagnoses have been systematically eroded over the last 20 years.

Those with psychiatric diagnoses are 2.5x more likely to be a victim of violent crime than to perpetrate it.

More of the same failed practices will serve no one. It is time for real mental health change.

#StandUpSpeakOut

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