

Advocating for meaningful engagement of people living with NCDs, mental health and neurological conditions

Key messages co-developed by people with lived experience and the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs (GCM/NCD)



About this document

This document contains messages co-created by a global community of people with lived experience of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), mental health and neurological conditions (PWLE), guided by the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on the Prevention and Control of NCDs, through the WHO Symposium on Meaningful Engagement of People Living with NCDs, Mental Health, and Neurological Conditions.

Purpose

The messages aim to strengthen and support advocacy efforts in the lead-up to the Fourth High-Level Meeting on NCDs and Mental Health (HLM4) and beyond.

Reflecting the priorities, challenges and aspirations of PWLE from over 85 countries, the messages advocate for advancing contextually appropriate NCD and mental health response that reflects the needs and experiences of people and communities affected.

Target Audience

These messages can be utilized by any interested stakeholders, including people with lived experience (PWLE), civil society, academia, policymakers, and the private sector.

The messages are directed at UN Member States, the World Health Organization (WHO), and global/national stakeholders such as policymakers, civil society organizations, research institutions, healthcare institutions and the private sector.

How to use

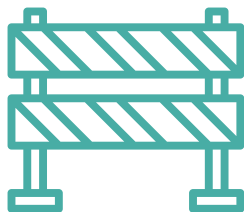
These messages are intended to serve as a practical advocacy tool across international, regional, national, and subnational contexts. Users are encouraged to:

- Adapt and use these messages, as relevant, to local and global policy dialogues, consultations, and community campaigns.
- Embed them into communication materials (e.g., press releases, social media, briefing notes) to reach diverse audiences.
- Highlight these messages in multistakeholder forums, advocating for increased resources and policy commitments throughout the lead-up to the Fourth High-Level Meeting on NCDs and Mental Health (HLM4).
- Promote them across sectors including: health, finance, education, and beyond.

The Advocacy Messages



Recognize the Right to
Meaningful Engagement



Address Barriers to
Participation



Formalize and Incentivize
Meaningful Engagement



Invest in Strengthening
and Resourcing
Meaningful Engagement



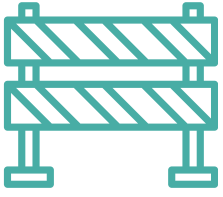
Recognize the Right to Meaningful Engagement

1)

Recognize the right of people with lived experience to formally and actively contribute as leading experts in decision making related to the NCD and mental health response.

2)

Equitably include people with lived experience throughout the co-design, co-implementation, and co-evaluation of health policies, programmes, services and research.



Address Barriers to Participation

3)

Ensure inclusive and equitable representation of people with lived experience across age groups, genders, and demographics.

4)

Create safe, enabling, and inclusive environments for meaningful engagement, particularly for the underrepresented and the most marginalised.

5)

Provide accessible and transparent channels for communication and collaboration.

6)

Facilitate participation of people facing financial barriers to meaningfully contribute to health policies, programmes, services and research.



Formalize and Incentivize Meaningful Engagement

7)

Develop, implement, and sustain policies, accountability frameworks, and platforms that ensure meaningful engagement and are designed to reduce stigma, discrimination, and tokenism.

8)

Create multisectoral and multistakeholder collaboration mechanisms that are inclusive of people with lived experience, safeguarded against conflicts of interest, and enhance policy coherence across government sectors, civil society, research institutions, the private sector, and international partners.

9)

Implement data collection, monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms to ensure that meaningful engagement is continuously improved, evidence-informed, and sustainable.



Invest in Strengthening and Resourcing Meaningful Engagement

10)

Commit to sustainable funding for capacity-building, including mentorship and training programs, knowledge exchange opportunities, and health literacy development for people with lived experience, caregivers, and family members.

11)

Develop guidance, toolkits, and technical resources on the implementation of meaningful engagement for policymakers and other stakeholders.

12)

Support research initiatives that strengthen the evidence base for meaningful engagement.