



ADHD-Europe Declaration about AD/HD

AD/HD Awareness Week
September 2009

ADHD-Europe has charted a Declaration about Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD), and is asking psychiatrists and psychologists across Europe to endorse this Declaration if they agree with the statements made therein. This Declaration will be distributed during the European AD/HD Awareness Week 2009 (20-27 September) in an effort to spread evidence-based knowledge and awareness about this condition to combat the stigma that still surrounds it today:

Taking into consideration that AD/HD is the most extensively studied mental disorder in children, affecting an estimated 3 to 7 percent of school-age children and an estimated 4 percent of adults across racial, ethnic and socioeconomic lines in Europe and worldwide;

Taking into consideration that AD/HD can cause devastating consequences, including failure in school, the workplace, and family relationships, antisocial behaviour, encounters with the criminal justice system, interpersonal difficulties and substance abuse;

Taking into consideration that scientific studies indicate that AD/HD in childhood is an indicator for a variety of mental disorders in adulthood, such as Personality Disorders, Depression, Anxiety and many stress related conditions that affect every area of a person's life;

Taking into consideration that the lack of understanding and public knowledge of AD/HD play a significant role in the overwhelming numbers of both children and adults who have undiagnosed and untreated AD/HD;

Taking into consideration that the lack of responsible reporting in the media and the dissemination of inaccurate and misleading information about AD/HD contributes to the large number of people who have not been diagnosed or treated for this condition despite the devastation that untreated AD/HD is causing in their lives and the lives of their loved ones;

Taking into consideration that the lack of awareness, knowledge and stigma surrounding the condition have a particularly detrimental effect on the diagnosis and treatment of the disorder;

Taking into consideration the need for adequate education about this disorder for healthcare professionals across Europe so that they are capable of identifying, properly diagnosing and treating AD/HD in all its manifestations;

Taking into consideration the need also for a comprehensive psycho-education programme for educators, school administrators and employers across Europe so that they have awareness and knowledge of the condition and can give the appropriate help to those in their care who are affected by this disorder;

Taking into consideration the now well-documented fact that the symptoms of AD/HD can be significantly reduced and the quality of life improved if a proper comprehensive diagnosis and multimodal treatment plan is carried out;

Taking all this into consideration, we urgently ask all policymakers, healthcare professionals, educators, the media and the general public to make sure that they keep the basic human rights of all children, adolescents and adults who suffer from AD/HD in mind when dealing with, or making statements about, this condition so that those afflicted by this condition are given the opportunity to live productive lives in spite of having a handicap that will be with them all their lives.