



McKendree Invitational

MODEL UNITED NATIONS



Submitted To: World Health Organization

Topic: Mental Health

Submitted By: United States of America

1 A pressing issue in modern society is our treatment of those with mental health issues. Even
2 though these may have no physical signs of harm, the amount of damage it can do to a
3 person and the widespread number of people it affects in every country is too vast to ignore.
4 The United States of America recognizes a big aspect of this is stigma towards the topic of
5 mental health. This stigma towards mental disorders with affect a person's ability to be
6 educated, their access to health-care, and their capacity to contribute to society. One of the
7 biggest hurdles of mental health. The biggest effect associated with untreated mental health
8 issues, however, is suicide. As of May 2017, 800,000 people die every year of suicide, which
9 is around 1 every 40 seconds. This figure doesn't include the many more attempted suicides
10 that happen around the world. This amount makes it the 17th leading cause of death as of
11 2015, and the 2nd leading cause for 15-29 year olds. This is especially concerning in
12 developing nations, as 78% of suicide deaths occurred in these nations. Even with all these
13 facts, only 28 nations have national plans for suicide prevention. The United States notes
14 suicide is on the factors looked at to see if nations are meeting their health-related
15 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

16 The United States of America urges nations to support organizations such as those
17 involved in the Movement for Global Mental Health (MGMH) to help bring an end to the
18 massive problems caused by poor treatment of these issues. Furthermore, it hopes for nations
19 to strive for achievement of the goals set out by the Sustainable Development Agenda,
20 especially those centered on the subject of mental health. The United States of America
21 commends nations who have set out plans for suicide prevention, and urges nations that have
22 yet to do so to make that change. The United States of America expresses hope that all
23 nations can work together in the future to provide better outreach to individuals struggling
24 with mental illness to promote a stronger, more sound society in all aspects.