

World Federation for Mental Health

World Congress on Mental Health - Barcelos 2025

Dear members of the WFMH and colleagues from around the world,
We are pleased to announce that the **WFMH World Congress on Mental Health 2025** will take place in the city of Barcelos, Portugal, from **October 30 to November 1, 2025**. In order to facilitate broad international participation, the congress will be held in a **hybrid format** (in-person and virtual) and will offer **simultaneous interpretation** in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

The theme for this edition is: **“Mental Health and Social Sustainability: A Whole Society and Community-Based Approach”**, a deeply relevant message in a global context where certain power narratives seek to impose individualism over collective approaches as the only viable path forward.

Since its first edition in **London in 1948**, this congress has been held every two years in different countries around the world. On this occasion, it will be **co-organized by the Municipality of Barcelos and the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH)**, an international organization founded in 1948 and recognized by the **WHO, UNESCO, the UN Human Rights Commission, the UN Refugee Agency, the International Labour Organization (ILO)**, among other global bodies.

Social sustainability, one of the three pillars of sustainable development (alongside environmental and economic sustainability), holds a central place in the field of mental health. It refers to the ability of societies to ensure, over time, **fair, equitable, and inclusive conditions** that promote the psychological well-being of all people, without exclusion, discrimination, or rights violations.

This approach goes beyond the mere provision of clinical services: it calls for a **profound transformation of the social, cultural, economic, and political conditions** that impact mental health. It embraces **human rights, social justice, active participation, and community life** as fundamental pillars in building truly sustainable mental health systems.

The congress will be a **pluralistic space, open to all voices and perspectives**. We invite **professionals, researchers, educators, service users, family members, and social organizations** to submit papers, proposals, and experiences, whether directly related to the main theme or addressing other relevant issues in the field of mental health.

We look forward to building together a truly global, inclusive, and transformative gathering!

Organizing Committee of the WFMH 2025 World Congress

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

[SUBMIT ABSTRACT](#)

[VISIT CONGRESS WEBSITE](#)