

manage patients' violent and other challenging behaviour. These practices violate human rights and thus there is a growing international policy move to reduce or even ultimately stop using them. To achieve this, clinicians, researchers, teachers, trainers, policy-makers and user representatives need to collaborate to transform psychiatric services towards non-coercive services. An international network provides one way towards this vision.

**Objectives:** Here we present an international network focusing on developing knowledge and practices aiming at reducing violence and coercion in mental health settings. We will illustrate how networking in an interdisciplinary group can be beneficial to both - European psychiatrists as well as other professionals in mental health services.

**Methods:** The EViPRG is a non-governmental research-focused network founded in 1997. Our vision is to work together to improve competency and quality of practice with the aim to reduce coercion and violence in mental health services, and address ongoing human rights issues. Clinicians in the psychiatric field as well as researchers can join the network through an electronic application (<https://www.eviprg.eu/>). Participation of early career researchers is encouraged.

**Results:** The EViPRG offers a unique network to connect with like-minded colleagues, collaborate on research projects, learn from various national initiatives to reduce coercion, exchange best practice models and take part in discussions via our various platforms. The network meets 3-4 times per year both in-person and online. Meetings provide an arena to present the latest research findings, generate new research projects and get feedback from colleagues. The EViPRG also organises the bi-annual "European Conference on Violence in Clinical Psychiatry" and members get a reduced fee to attend.

**Conclusions:** The network has more than 130 members in Europe and beyond. Numerous multi-country studies have been initiated through the network. As an example, in the years 2021-2024, a European Commission-funded project COST Action FOSTREN widened the network to new countries. As a result, we expect a rise in our membership, especially from Eastern Europe. If you want to find like-minded research partners and innovators, link in with a strong community aspiring to influence policy and practice in this area, progress your career and international profile, or just meet new colleagues, membership in the EViPRG can be your choice.

**Disclosure of Interest:** None Declared

## Climate Change

### O015

#### From pre-existing vulnerabilities to daily stressors, what is the impact of climate change on mental health and gender inequity in Asia region?

V. Kaya<sup>1</sup>, L. Clouin<sup>1</sup>, T. Iglesias Zayas<sup>1</sup>, K. Le Roch<sup>2</sup>, R. Alessandri<sup>1</sup> and E. Dozio<sup>3\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Operations; <sup>2</sup>Mental Health and Psychosocial Support and <sup>3</sup>Action contre la faim, Montreuil, France

\*Corresponding author.

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**Introduction: Background:** While climate change affects millions of people in South and Southeast Asia, women and girls are

disproportionately impacted, largely due to pre-existing vulnerabilities given their traditional gender roles and intensified adaptive capacity and sensitivity to climate change. They have often less representation and decision-making power in governance processes and structures involved in the development and implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation policies. Moreover, they face mental health and psychosocial problems due to various climate-related stressors.

**Objectives:** The study aimed at exploring the perceptions of people living in contexts affected by climate change in order to better understand the impact on the psychosocial conditions of women and girls.

**Methods:** In 2023, online and in situ interviews were conducted with 30 individuals (15 women, 15 men) from the government, international and national organisations as well as academic and research institutions in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan. Moreover, eight focus group discussions were conducted in Bangladesh (Kurigram and Sathkira districts) and Nepal (Rasuwa and Udayapur districts) with 71 community members, including 40 women and girls (aged 14 to 54 years old) and 31 men and boys (aged 15 to 70 years old).

**Results:** In Bangladesh, both districts face extreme weather like drought and floods, which leads to the migration of men. An increased involvement of women in farming, alongside their household responsibilities. This has transformed the family dynamic and women, as household head, have become the primary decision-makers. In Nepal, there has been a lack of awareness among women and men on the impact of climate change on their living conditions. The significant shift in the traditional gender divisions of labour has not brought an equitable transfer of assets and resources that could help women to cope after a climate-related event. Ultimately, women suffer from mental health issues.

**Conclusions:** This study shows some causal links between climate change and the psychosocial conditions of women and girls which confirm the necessity to develop gender-responsive climate change strategies, to improve access to mental health services and to prevent long-term changes within communities.

**Disclosure of Interest:** None Declared

## Depressive Disorders

### O016

#### Mental Health, Loneliness and Urbanicity – A Cross-Sectional Network Analysis in a Nationally Representative Sample

D. Ochnik<sup>1\*</sup>, M. Budziński<sup>2</sup>, A. Szostak<sup>2</sup>, Y. Vitkovskyi<sup>2</sup>, M. Wierzbik-Strońska<sup>1</sup>, E. Rojczyk<sup>1</sup> and P. Nagel<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Medicine; <sup>2</sup>Social Sciences and Humanities and <sup>3</sup>Architecture, Civil Construction, and Applied Arts, Academy of Silesia, Katowice, Poland

\*Corresponding author.

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**Introduction:** With increasing urbanization, more people are exposed to mental health risk factors stemming from the urban, social or physical environment. However, research on the connection between urban living and mental health remains unclear.