

ALMP FIGHTS FOR MENTAL PATIENTS' RIGHTS

AS A "MENTAL PATIENT", YOU ARE NO DOUBT AWARE THAT PSYCHIATRY CAN BE USED IN DESTRUCTIVE WAYS. YOU MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLUNTARILY COMMITTED ("RAILROADED") OR FORCED TO TAKE DRUGS THAT YOU DIDN'T WANT. WHEN YOU COMPLAINED ABOUT THE SIDE-EFFECTS OF YOUR "MEDICATION", YOUR PSYCHIATRIST MAY HAVE TOLD YOU THAT THE SYMPTOMS WERE "ALL IN YOUR HEAD". YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU AND PRIVATE RECORDS OF YOUR BEHAVIOR KEPT. YOU ARE LEFT FEELING DEGRADED AND HOPELESS IN THE FACE OF THE HOSPITAL'S AUTHORITY. IF YOU FILE A COMPLAINT REGARDING YOUR "TREATMENT", YOU WILL FIND THAT IT IS DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO FIND GOOD LEGAL HELP. ONE THING IS FOR SURE: WHAT IS CALLED "TREATMENT" BY THE HOSPITAL IS OFTEN EXPERIENCED AS TORTURE BY THOSE LOCKED UP.

WE ARE FORMER "MENTAL PATIENTS" WHO HAVE JOINED TOGETHER TO FORM THE ALLIANCE FOR THE LIBERATION OF MENTAL PATIENTS. WE KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ISOLATED FROM FRIENDS AND FAMILY: WE KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE TREATED AS OBJECTS AND MADE TO FEEL LESS HUMAN THAN SO-CALLED "NORMAL" PEOPLE. WE ARE AWARE THAT MENTAL HOSPITALS SERVE THE POWERFUL BY LOCKING UP CERTAIN PEOPLE WHO ARE SEEN AS UNPRODUCTIVE, BOTHERSOME, "ODD", OR OUT-OF-STEP. THOSE OF US WHO ARE POOR OR WORKING CLASS, FEMALE, BLACK, OR GAY HAVE A GREATER CHANCE OF BEING LOCKED UP. MENTAL HOSPITALS CONTROL NOT ONLY PATIENTS, BUT ALSO THOSE ON THE OUTSIDE WHO KNOW THEY WILL BE INCARCERATED IF THEY STEP OUT OF LINE.

DISGUISED AS "TREATMENT FACILITIES", MENTAL HOSPITALS BENEFIT THE PEOPLE WHO RUN THEM, THE PEOPLE WHO WORK IN THEM, AND THE PEOPLE WHO SEND THEIR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES THERE. THE "MENTAL HEALTH" INDUSTRY IS ONE OF THE LARGEST, FASTEST GROWING, AND MOST PROFITABLE BUSINESSES IN THE U.S. TODAY. MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ARE MAKING A LOT OF MONEY ON PROVIDING "TREATMENT" TO THOSE LABELLED "MENTALLY ILL".

PEOPLE IN THIS SOCIETY EXPERIENCE EMOTIONAL PAIN BECAUSE SOCIETY PUTS WEALTH, PROPERTY, AND POWER ABOVE THE BASIC NEEDS OF PEOPLE. PSYCHIATRISTS, AS DOCTORS, DO NOT LOOK AT THE VERY REAL CAUSES OF OUR PAIN. INSTEAD, WE WHO ARE EXPERIENCING EMOTIONAL PAIN ARE LABELLED BY PSYCHIATRISTS AS "SCHIZOPHRENIC", "MANIC-DEPRESSIVE", ETC. WE ARE TOLD THAT WE ARE "MENTALLY ILL". WHEN WE ACCEPT THE LABEL OF "MENTAL ILLNESS", WE ARE MADE TO FEEL THAT OUR PAIN IS THE RESULT OF A "DISEASE", RATHER THAN A NATURAL REACTION TO OUR LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE ONLY WAY THAT THESE SITUATIONS WILL BE CHANGED IS FOR US, AS CURRENT AND FORMER INMATES/"PATIENTS", TO WORK TOGETHER.

IT MEANS MEETING TOGETHER, FREE OF STAFF MONITORS, TO TALK ABOUT OUR EXPERIENCES OF BEING LOCKED UP.

IT MEANS HELPING TO GIVE EACH OTHER STRENGTH TO FIGHT THE DAILY ABUSES WHILE IN THE "HOSPITAL".

IT MEANS FEELING GOOD ABOUT OURSELVES AND THE FACT THAT WE CAN ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING WORKING TOGETHER WITHOUT "HELP" OR INTERFERENCE BY "PROFESSIONALS".

IT MEANS GIVING OURSELVES THE SUPPORT WE NEED SO MUCH TO CONTINUE STRUGGLING.

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