

# IRCT SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM

## DELIVERING ON THE PROMISE OF THE RIGHT TO REHABILITATION

Mexico City, December 2016

[www.irctsymposium2016.irct.org](http://www.irctsymposium2016.irct.org)



## Join 150 IRCT member centres from over 70 countries at the IRCT's 10th Scientific Symposium 5 to 7 December 2016

- 3 Days • 3 Themes
- 30 Concurrent working sessions
- 110 Presentations • 100 Posters

The Symposium is shaping up to be a breakthrough event for the torture prevention and the global rehabilitation sector. The broad reach of speakers and participants from around the world will create a meaningful opportunity for exchange and collaboration.

It is the first global event to look in detail across disciplines at how to deliver on the promise of the right to rehabilitation for torture survivors. Up to 450 participants from across regions and professions, including those providing services to survivors, clinicians, researchers, lawyers, funders and policy-makers have already signed up.

The full range of human rights and torture rehabilitation service providers from Mexico will attend and engage with other national, regional and international actors to address the challenges of torture prevention, impunity and rehabilitation.

Thanks to the support of a number of funders the IRCT will ensure this landmark event is inclusive and diverse by offering scholarships and support to those otherwise unable to attend. The Symposium is jointly hosted by the IRCT and Colectivo Contra la Tortura, a longstanding torture prevention and rehabilitation organisation based in Mexico.

### The three Symposium themes:

1. What works for who, where and why?  
Trends and developments in research on rehabilitation methods
2. What are the challenges in implementing the right to rehabilitation?  
Getting the needed political, financial, legal and public support
3. What can we learn from others?  
Sharing knowledge with other human rights and health sectors

Plenary sessions by leading experts drawn from an international pool of candidates include:

- Rehabilitation in contexts of systemic torture
- Financing of the right to rehabilitation
- Fostering resilience - survivor participation in research and treatment planning
- Challenges of mass influx and aligning service delivery

## Participants can choose from 30 working sessions covering a wide range of topics

Responding to the needs of torture survivors across all identities:

- Children and youth targeted for torture
- Elderly as the forgotten and their needs as survivors
- Women survivors and their particular needs due to stigma and sexual torture
- Asylum seekers and refugees in situations of mass movement and protracted situations
- Those targeted due to their sexual orientation
- Working with victims who are highly stigmatised
- Detainees and victims of repressive regimes and anti-terrorism legislation
- Internally displaced and migrants in a number of country situations
- Resettled refugees needs and longer term requirements

Rehabilitation challenges for families, communities and across generations:

- Family and intergenerational issues in rehabilitation work
- Impact of detention and torture on family members
- Acknowledgement of historical trauma for healing
- Trans-generational trauma and family dynamics, attachment relations and children's resilience
- Responding to needs of survivors of organised violence and torture
- Family therapy models to reduce isolation

Innovation to support survivors:

- Computer assisted assessment of traumatised refugees
- Using eye movement and desensitisation and reprocessing (EMDR) therapy
- Using electroencephalogram (EEG) in rehabilitation
- Bone scintigraphy (bone scanning) on torture diagnosis
- Non-invasive digital infrared thermal imaging in diagnosis of torture

Funding rehabilitation services:

- Ensuring access to services and funding for rehabilitation as part of health care systems
- Right to rehabilitation and state responsibility
- Holding governments to account for ensuring rehabilitation services through international, regional and national mechanisms

There will be a Symposium Poster Session and Marketplace during the three-day event and many opportunities for participants to network and meet with colleagues from around the world!

#### Rehabilitation responses across contexts:

- Interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary work and treatment approaches
- Responding to sexual torture and gendered forms of torture
- Early identification of survivors and responses to their needs
- Mental health sector approaches including training health workers and task shifting
- Working in resource poor environments
- Specialist versus non-specialist approaches to survivor rehabilitation
- Acute short-term approaches in emergency contexts
- Group therapy approaches
- Using movement, dance and art therapy for healing
- Narrative exposure therapy approaches
- Bio-psycho-social approaches to rehabilitation
- Physiotherapy as part of a complex intervention programme
- Phantom limb treatment
- Use of spiritual assets after torture
- Testimonial therapy
- Survivor engagement and service users participation in structuring services
- Working in difficult contexts (prisons, in conflict zones, anti-terrorism contexts, repressive regimes)

#### Measuring rehabilitation and evidencing change:

- A global system for gathering clinical data in the fight against impunity
- Clinical change outcome tools to evidence rehabilitation approaches
- Evaluation of a range of counseling service approaches
- Psycho-social well-being index
- Synthesising evidence on efficacy of approaches
- Randomised control trials as a research tool in torture rehabilitation

#### Preventing torture, holding perpetrators to account and fighting impunity:

- Forensic documentation under the Istanbul Protocol
- Documentation in conflicts and situations of systemic torture
- Evidence for supporting anti-impunity claims in various legal proceedings (administrative, judicial and treaty body interventions)
- Lessons from community based justice and reparation processes

#### Delivering on the promise of the right to rehabilitation:

- Torture rehabilitation providers in public health systems
- Service models to fit a range of political, economic and social contexts
- Global, regional and national funding models for rehabilitation services
- Independence of service providers and building safe systems

*“The IRCT Scientific Symposium could not come at a better time. Efforts to secure adequate funding and policies to support rehabilitation efforts will be furthered by a strong grounding in science. I expect that among the important outcomes will be the dissemination of valuable clinical and research knowledge about effective interventions within the torture treatment field and related sectors.*

*“Best practices from around the world regarding how to promote and secure the right to rehabilitation will be shared, enhancing the possibility of furthering this right. The Symposium will also bring together diverse and knowledgeable stakeholders working at an advocacy and policy level to promote the realisation of the right to rehabilitation.”*

Megan Berthold,  
Member of the Symposium’s Scientific Committee and Assistant Professor at the University of Connecticut’s School of Social Work, USA

Don’t miss your place, sign up now at:  
<http://www.irctsymposium2016.irct.org>

For further information, contact [symposium-ga@irct.org](mailto:symposium-ga@irct.org).



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**International Rehabilitation  
Council for Torture Victims**