



TO HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

**Submission for Universal Periodic Review (Third Cycle) of the
Republic of Serbia**

At the 29th session of UPR Working group

Submitted by

MENTAL DISABILITY RIGHTS INITIATIVE - MDRI-S

an affiliate of

DISABILITY RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL

Belgrade, June 2017



Mental Disability Rights Initiative – Serbia (MDRI-S) would like to thank the Human Rights Council for the opportunity to send written submission addressing the Universal Periodic Review (third cycle) of the Republic of Serbia. We hope that our comments will be valuable for recommending to Serbia measures for improving current situation in human rights.

Disability Rights International (DRI) is an international human rights organization dedicated to the rights and full participation in society of people with disabilities. DRI documents abuses and promotes international awareness and oversight of the rights of people with disabilities, and it trains and supports disability rights and human rights activists worldwide to promote rights enforcement and service-system reform. DRI is based in Washington, DC with regional offices in Mexico, Serbia, and Ukraine.

Mental Disabilities Rights Initiative of Serbia (MDRI-S) is an affiliate of Disability Rights International. As a recognized advocacy organization in Serbia, MDRI-S promotes citizen participation, awareness and oversight of the rights of persons with disabilities, and leads the process of development of disability rights advocacy and self-advocacy movement in Serbia. MDRI-S covers the issues of the most marginalized and stigmatized people and its special focus is on children and adults who are at risk of or who are already residing in social and mental health institutions. MDRI-S priority areas are equal recognition of persons with mental disabilities before the law, protection from violence, abuse, ill-treatment and torture, deinstitutionalization, and community living. As a member of the National Preventive Mechanism for Torture (NPM) set up under the OPCAT in 2012, MDRI-S systematically monitors the position of persons deprived of liberty in residential social institutions.

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