



Document Title: **Annual Report 2026: WPA Section on Psychiatry Law and Ethics**

Author: **Roy Abraham Kallivayalil (Section Chair)**

Date: 31 March 2026

Executive Summary

The Section on Psychiatry, Law and Ethics is one of the most active Sections of WPA. The Section deals with legal and ethical issues related to the practice of psychiatry and draws on international conventions, past and present, as well as the moral philosophy and its application to psychiatry. The membership of the Section has more than doubled from 34 to 72 during this triennium reflecting the interest and academic enthusiasm it has generated among our member societies. It fully complies with WPA requirements regarding membership diversity, governance renewal, scientific and academic programmes and remains committed to expanding its global network and its mission and the goals of WPA.

1. Membership

The WPA Section on Psychiatry, Law and Ethics has currently 72 members from different world regions and fulfills the WPA requirement of international representation and geographic diversity. The following new Section office-bearers assumed office during the WPA World Congress, Vienna, September 2023.

Chair: Prof Roy A Kallivayalil (India)

Co-chair: Prof Tsuyoshi Akiyama (Japan)

Secretary: Prof Neeraj Gill (Australia)

Committee Members:

1. Harneet Kaur (India)
2. Rodrigo Ramalho (New Zealand)
3. Kuruvilla Thomas (India)
4. Manuel Trachsel (Switzerland)
5. Christos Tsopelas (Greece)

The Chair, Co-chair and Secretary were elected during the WPA Vienna Congress, September 2023. The Committee Members were proposed and approved later. The Section has remained very active during the triennium (2023-2026).

There has been a great interest in the Section membership which has more than doubled from 34 to 72 in three years. The following six members were elected to the Section this year.

1. Ajay Kumar (India)
2. Mohd Ayob (Malaysia)
3. Natalia Treushnikova (Russia)
4. Sudhir Bhawe (India)
5. Nurgul Ozgen (Turkey)
6. Derrick Johnson (India)

2. Action Plan

2025 -2026 Activities (Completed)

1. WPA Section on Psychiatry, Law and Ethics Symposium was held during the 25th World Congress of Psychiatry, Prague, Oct 5-8, 2025. Title: "Psychiatry, Law and Ethics- Challenges in contemporary times". Chairs: Luigi Janiri (Italy) and Maria Ammon (Germany). Speakers: Roy Kallivayalil (India)- Psychiatry, Law and Ethics- Challenges in South Asia, Christos Tsopelas (Greece)- Psychiatry, Law and Ethics- Challenges in Europe and Tzeferakos Georgios (Greece)- Psychiatry, Law and Ethics- Future Perspectives
2. **Section meeting:** An in-person meeting of our Section was held during WPA World Congress Prague on October 5th . All members of our Section attending the Congress joined the meeting. We decided to keep the section active and dynamic and also to admit new members who are keenly interested.
3. **WPA Scientific Sections Meeting:** Our Section attended this meeting during WPA Prague on October 7, 2025 convened by the WPA Secretary for Sections Prof Armen Soghoyan. Roy Kallivayalil presented a report on our Section and participated in the deliberations.
4. WASP Congress, Marrakech Jan 2026 : Symposium in collaboration with the World Association for Dynamic Psychiatry on " Creative Dimensions in Psychiatric and Psychotherapeutic Treatment of the Vulnerable". Speakers: Roy A Kallivayalil (Section Chair), FabianGuénolé, France, TimothySullivan,USA, Sieglinde Bast, Germany and Maria Ammon, Germany
5. WASP / WPA Congress – Marrakesh (January 2026): Symposium: *Climate Change in a Changing World* . Chairs: Martinotti G., Kallivayalil R. Speakers: Bhugra D., Cianconi P., Karaliuniene R., Janiri L
6. WPA Section on Psychiatry, Law and Ethics Symposium was held during the Annual Conference of Indian Association for Social Psychiatry, Sept 12- 14, 2025 at Chandigarh, India. Topic: "Challenges in the the Field of Psychiatry, Law and Ethics in South Asia". Speakers: Neeraj Gill, Roy A Kallivayalil, Mohan Isaac and Smitha Ramadas
7. The WPA Section on Psychiatry, Law and Ethics symposium was held during the 77th Annual Conference of the Indian Psychiatric Society in New Delhi, January 27–31, 2026. The session, titled "Challenges in South Asia, MHCA 2017, Forensic Psychiatry, Digital Psychiatry and Data Privacy," featured the following topics and speakers: Psychiatry, Law, and Ethics: Challenges in South Asia – Prof. Roy A. Kallivayalil (India), Ethics of Mental Health Legislation: The Mental Healthcare Act 2017 vs. International Human Rights Standards – Prof. Neeraj Gill (Australia), Forensic Psychiatry in India: Current Practices & Future Directions – Dr. UC Garg (Agra) and Digital Psychiatry & Data Privacy: Legal and Ethical Challenges in Tele-psychiatry – Dr. Heena Merchant (Mumbai).
8. Strengthening of Inter Sectional Collaboration: with
 - o Ecology, Psychiatry and Mental Health Section
 - o Preventive Psychiatry Section

3: Scientific Output and Publications: (only few are listed)

1. Menon, V., Balasubramanian, I., Rogers, M.L., Grover, S., Lakdawala, B., Ranjan, R., Sarkhel, S., Nebhinani, N., Kallivayalil, R.A.,2026. Development and psychometric evaluation of an abbreviated form of the revised suicide crisis inventory (A-SCI)-2 in major depression: A multicentric investigation. *Asian Journal of Psychiatry*, p.104897.
2. Menon V, Balasubramanian I, Rogers ML, Grover S, Lakdawala B, Ranjan R, Sarkhel S, Nebhinani N, Kallivayalil RA, Raghavan V, Mishra KK. Factor structure, reliability, and validity

- of the revised Suicide Crisis Inventory in major depression: A multicentric Indian study. *Journal of affective disorders*. 2024 Jan 15;345:226-33.
3. Ni MY, Leung CM, Wan TT, Campion J, Gill N, Galea S, Ip EC. Harnessing the power of constitutional rights and legal frameworks to scale up public mental health implementation. *The Lancet Psychiatry*. 2026
 4. Misra M, Sinha N, Pathare S, Gill N, Javed A. World Psychiatric Association position statement on mental health and the death penalty. *Lancet psychiatry*. 2024.
 5. Menon V, Balasubramanian I, Rogers ML, Grover S, Lakdawala B, Ranjan R, Sarkhel S, Nebhinani N, Kallivayalil RA, Raghavan V, Mishra KK. Psychometric properties and factor structure of the suicidal narrative inventory in major depression: a multicentric evaluation. *Asian journal of psychiatry*. 2024 May 1;95:104002.
 6. Kisely S, Bull C, Gill N (2025) A systematic review and meta-analysis of the effect of community treatment orders on aggression or criminal behaviour in people with a mental illness. *Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences* 34, e12, 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S2045796025000058>
 7. Gill, Neeraj, et al. "Bringing together the World Health Organization's QualityRights initiative and the World Psychiatric Association's programme on implementing alternatives to coercion in mental healthcare: a common goal for action." *BJPsych open* 10.1 (2024): e23.
 8. Evans M, Tezak T, Gooding P, Gill N. Coercion in psychiatry and mental health care: Ethical, legal, and human rights considerations. *World Social Psychiatry*. 2024 Sep 1;6(3):112-6.

4: Book Publications

The Glow of Synthesis: Twelve Beacons of Light in Social Psychiatry 2025

[ROY ABRAHAM KALLIVAYALIL](#) [RAMA RAO GOGINENI](#) and [SALMAN AKHTAR](#)

ISBN: 978936616364220251/e <https://ejaypee.com/products/the-glow-of-synthesis-twelve-beacons-of-light-in-social-psychiatry-by-roy-abraham-kallivayalil>

Neeraj Gill and Norman Sartorius (eds). *Mental Health and Human Rights – The challenges of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to Mental Health Care*. Springer Nature, Switzerland. 2024.

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-52179-9>

5: Action Plan: Upcoming Activities in 2026

- Collaboration with the World Association of Dynamic Psychiatry: Keynote address on “Dynamic Psychiatry and Ethics in the Contemporary World “- by Roy A Kallivayalil (Section Chair), Raipur, India, April 24-26, 2026
- Section Symposium on “PSYCHIATRY, LAW AND ETHICS IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD: HUMAN RIGHTS, NEUROSCIENCE, CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC CHALLENGES AND END-OF-LIFE CARE” at **WPA World Congress of Psychiatry, Stockholm, Sept 23- 26, 2026**: Accepted for presentation.
- Section Meeting during WPA World Congress Stockholm
- Participation in international research projects.
- Preparation of peer-reviewed publications
- Expansion of collaboration with WADP and WFMH.
- Strengthening Inter Sectional Collaborations.

We thank WPA President Prof Danuta Wasserman and Secretary for Sections Prof Armen Soghoian for their valuable guidance and support.

Prof Roy Abraham Kallivayalil (Chair)

Neeraj Gill (Secretary)

WPA Section on Psychiatry, Law and Ethics

March 31, 2026

Compliance with WPA Requirements:

\The Section

- ✓ Has more 72 members from different regions
 - ✓ Has elected officers (elected in 2023)
 - ✓ Has implemented its action plan
 - ✓ Has organized symposia within the triennium
 - ✓ Has produced peer-reviewed publications and educational materials
 - ✓ Conducts ongoing research
 - ✓ Collaborates actively with other WPA Sections
-