

Name and first name:

Margrete Suzuko Osterfeld

Date and place of birth:

30 September 1950, Lübbecke, Germany

Working languages

German, English

Professional background

Psychiatrist; psychotherapist; expert on German mental health law; expert on psychopharmacology; former head of ward (LWL-Klinik, Dortmund, psychiatric hospital)

Current position/function

2015 to present: Member of the German National Agency for the Prevention of Torture (NPM)

2014 to present: Member of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT)

2014 to present: Board member of Aktion Psychisch Kranke (APK), a German society established to reform psychiatric care

2002 to present: Member of the monitoring body (Besuchskommission) for mental health in the German federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia

Educational background

1997 Certification as psychotherapist, Germany; 1996 Certification as psychiatrist, Germany; 1991 Licence to practice medicine, University of Münster, Germany; 1971 Certification as pharmacist assistant, Germany;

Main professional activities

Treated psychiatric patients and (voluntarily and involuntarily) hospitalized persons for many years; led a psychiatric ward (1996-2007) and its multi-professional team; taught nursing and junior medical staff; studied German mental health law and the right to the best attainable mental health vis-à-vis the right to liberty, with publications in this field from 2003 onwards.

Advisory activities relating to the process of adapting mental health law to human rights standards such as CRPD or OPCAT as independent expert in parliamentary hearings, as well as member of working groups of different CSOs on coercive psychiatric care.

Promoted the concept of the legal capacity of mentally or psychosocially disabled persons and the need for reforms in psychiatric care as a keynote speaker at national and international workshops, e. g. "Das Gespür für Menschenrechte – die Kritik der UN an der Psychiatrie" (A sense of human rights – the UN's criticism of psychiatry, February 2016) or "Menschenrechte und mitgestaltete Anspruchsrechte" (Human rights and claim rights, November 2015)

Membership of professional associations

German Society of Social Psychiatry (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziale Psychiatrie, DGSP) since 2003, member of the board 2010 - 2014; speaker of the DGSP task group on psychotropic drugs 2010 – 2014. German Society of Legal Guardianship (Betreuungsgerichtstag) since 2003; currently member of the task force on coercion

Selected list of recent publications in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture

2016, M. Zinkler, K. Laupichler, M. Osterfeld (Eds.), Prävention von Zwangsmaßnahmen. Menschenrechte und therapeutische Kulturen in der Psychiatrie (Prevention of coercive measures; Human rights and therapeutic cultures in psychiatry). 2016, M. Osterfeld, Selbstbestimmung, Inklusion und rechtliche Betreuung – Herausforderung oder gordischer Knoten (Self-determination, inclusion and legal care – Challenge or Gordian knot) in Th. Degener et al., Menschenrecht Inklusion (Human Right Inclusion). 2017, D. Brosey, M. Osterfeld, Die Rechte von Klientinnen und Klienten (The rights of clients) in J. Bischof et al., Soziale Arbeit in der Psychiatrie, Lehrbuch (social work in psychiatry, textbook). 2017, N. Greve, M. Osterfeld, B. Diekmann, Umgang mit Psychopharmaka (Dealing with psychotropic drugs), 5th ed.