

THE MENTAL PATIENTS' UNION.

The Mental Patients' Union is a union of mental patients and ex-patients formed and run by mental patients and ex-patients. It was founded on March 21st 1973. Membership is restricted to mental patients and ex-patients, there will be however, a non- decision making associate membership with no voting rights.

The Union has issued the following Provisional Declaration of Intent.

"The Mental Patients' Union will represent mental patients and ex-patients wherever they require to be represented. We will fight to make what rights of representation formally exist effective, and to secure rights of representation wherever they do not exist."

" We will work towards the abolition of compulsory treatment."

"We demand the total abolition of irreversible psychiatric treatments (electric shock, brain surgery, specific drugs etc). We demand higher standards in the testing of treatments before use on patients. We demand that patients should be informed if a treatment is experimental and should have the effective right to refuse to be experimented on. We demand that patients be told what treatments they are receiving and what the long term effects are."

" We will also fight for the abolition of censorship by hospital authorities, of patients communications with society outside the hospital, and in particular the abolition of letter and phone call censorship, and the abolition of any power of hospital authorities to restrict patients' visitors."

This declaration is provisional and the working party are preparing a more detailed statement which will be presented to the next general meeting, on the 8th April (Sunday) at 2p.m. at 60a Malden Road, N.W,5.

N.B.

All publications of the 'Pilot committee for a Mental Patients' Union are now superceded by the publications of the Union itself and do not have the authority of the Union. They should not be quoted therefore as the policy of the Mental Patients Union.

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