

Bio- and alternative medicine in conflict. Human rights protection of the alternative therapist

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Abstract

In spite of strong commercial interests in biomedicine we now observe that complementary, alternative and holistic medicine (CAM) are being used more frequently than biomedicine in the western world. Many physicians have lost faith in pharmaceutical drugs and integrate existential psychotherapy, therapeutic touch, clinical holistic medicine and other CAM techniques into their clinical practice. In response commercial forces impact the media and national health authorities to promote the use of biomedical drugs. CAM-researchers and therapists are frequently “quack-busted” following a rigid pattern: 1) First a fabricated accusation is presented to the public and the health authorities via the media, 2) that will start a public investigation often conducted by biomedical doctors, who are strongly biased against CAM, 3) accusations of sexual or violent abuse make insecure patients re-interpret the treatment and complain in the media, 4) as this feedback-loop takes off more and more “evidence” gathers against the CAM-researcher or therapist culminating in a public “witch burning” scandal, 5) even if investigations by the police and the court of law shows that the original accusations was unsubstantiated – which is normally the case - the researcher or therapist will still be found guilty in malpractice by his biomedical colleagues, 6) in the end the prosecution process generates by itself the evidence against the CAM-researcher or CAM-therapist that takes him out of business and 7) the national health authorities’ participation in the persecution of CAM-researchers and therapists based on rumors violates the physician and therapist basic human rights and is a serious hindrance to research and development of CAM.

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Introduction

Two industries have economies larger than even small countries: the weapon industry and the medical industry. In capitalistic society money rule and these

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industries have been known to employ thousands of lobbyists and use billions of money on direct and indirect bribes (1). The sharing of the turnover from the pharmaceutical industry have been so efficient it made Ross Scholes say: "The highly trained medical professionals is like an accessory to the vast pharmaceutical and health-care industry, as a stewardess is to a jet airliner and the aviations industry" (1, p 37). This is of course not completely true; many doctors know that biomedicine like penicillin is highly efficient for syphilis, but has its limitations when it comes to pain and chronic diseases. Recently many physicians have realized that biomedicine is not the only kind of medical science, but when they were in medical school they were trained to give "the magic bullet" or pill and therefore not able to understand the process of healing and offer psychodynamic psychotherapy, bodywork or the two combined as in scientific holistic medicine (2-4).

Strong commercial interests promote drugs, but many physicians today believe that CAM (complementary and alternative medicine) would help the patient more than the drugs alone. This has become so obvious in countries with nationalized biomedicine, like in Denmark, where all ill people are treated with drugs at no cost for them, but for chronic disease the drugs do not cure the patients. Quite on the contrary literally half the nation has been turned into chronic patients: 40-60% of the Danish population is chronically ill now, half with mental and half with somatic illnesses in spite of the free biomedical healthcare (5). For these patients the alternative non-drug CAM therapies are the only alternative, but the regular physicians are not able to provide it. Because of this some physicians now take complementary education in scientific CAM, like the European Master of Science degree (MSc) in complementary, psychosocial and integrative medicine, which has become increasingly popular (6).

Biomedicine or CAM?

It is even more depressing that some drugs are giving the patients a false hope of cure, while the adverse effects of the drugs often are so strong that they constitute a severe hindrance to spontaneous healing and recovery. We have seen that with chemotherapy

for cancer and with antipsychotic drugs for schizophrenia and other severe mental illnesses. Long-term survival was not improved at all for metastatic cancers in the latest general review made by Ulrich Abel (7) and antipsychotic drugs are definitely not improving mental health according to the latest Cochrane metaanalyses of the treatments of psychotic patients with antipsychotic drugs (8).

We also know that total Number Needed to Harm (NNH) of many biomedical treatments are one, two or three, i.e. the fraction of patients getting an adverse effect is often one in three or more. At the same time we know that for many drugs Number Needed to Treat to Benefit (NNT) is often 5 or more, meaning that 20% or less of the patients are getting better on the drugs. Statistically many patients are harmed and few patients cured by the drugs. The conclusion to all this has been that "the drugs don't work" (9), if we have to put it very dramatically.

CAM on the other hand is harming no patient, and is often helping one in two or three, at least according to the patient's subjective report of feeling being helped, making alternative and holistic medicine likely to be the rational choice with most diseases. Interestingly more and more physicians are starting to doubt the pharmaceutical industries methods of documenting the effect of the drugs. When it comes to depression, we know that the most efficient antidepressive drugs according to a recent Cochrane metaanalysis are no better than active placebo (10). This means that the antidepressive drugs most likely only have adverse effects, no beneficial effect at all and most of these drugs have serious adverse effects.

Attack on the alternative

In spite of non-drug CAM and holistic medicine being helpful and not harmful with sometimes biomedicine being the opposite, biomedicine has managed not only to survive, but also to repress the majority of the CAM-practitioners and CAM-researchers on this planet. When you look only at the NNT (number needed to treat) and NNH (number needed to harm) figures, remembering that all modern physicians have sworn to rational and evidence-based medicine, this is a riddle. But when you look to the formation of public

consciousness in different societies, you will soon realize that the media is running the show. The media is bringing one story after the other on “CAM-quacks” harming and violating their patients and biomedical doctors saving them with new drugs and biochemical discoveries, so that biomedicine and the pharmaceutical industry will stay in power.

Most interestingly it seems that the pharmaceutical industry has found an ingenious solution to the threat from complementary and holistic medicine: *Directing whom the public health care system will investigate*. The process can be small and invisible for the public with some accusations of violations, medical errors, and harm done to a patient, making the health authorities look into the practice of the CAM-researcher or therapist, finding all the things that can be criticized, especially all the things that deviate from “biomedical standard treatment”.

The public employed medical experts that evaluate a controversial CAM research or treatment are normally biomedical doctors, often biomedical psychiatrists with a collective, close link to the pharmaceutical industry and no understanding of or sympathy for CAM. The CAM-practicing physician will therefore end up being blamed in public for not treating correctly according to standard.

The political system, which is under severe pressure from the biomedical pharmaceutical lobby, often accepts “preponderance of evidence” against the CAM-therapist and finds him guilty. In the recent period, when these cases have been brought in front of the court system (not the medical system) with demands of “clear and convincing evidence”, then the CAM-therapist is almost always found not-guilty (11)

Witch hunting in the media

Often the CAM opponents are using the media to obtain the intended public investigation. Most often biomedical physicians, again often psychiatrists, go to the media with severe accusations of sexual and violent abuse, horrible errors and serious harm done by the CAM-therapist. If the media buy into the story, which they are likely to do as sex, violence and news connected to medicine attracts enormous attention and sell newspapers more than anything else. Afterwards the public health authorities are politically motivated

to engage and demonstrate strength and efficiency by attacking the CAM-therapist, taking license etc. Often “leaks” to the media will bring a continuous flow of hot stories about the “bad” doctors/therapists.

As soon as a CAM-therapist is brought in this position, his patients lose faith and confidence and often they start re-interpreting what actually happened in the clinic and can even complain, in spite of feeling helped and completely satisfied with the treatment only yesterday. A strong wish to distance them and to get rid of an embarrassing association with the “CAM-witch” it often makes them terminate their treatment and change their opinion of the CAM-therapist. This is a normal psychological mechanism; we know from the New Testament that even the disciples of Jesus repudiated him, when he was caught by the Romans to be crucified.

Even in the unlikely case that the CAM-therapist is a true saint, a strong negative campaign in the media will still make him look like a criminal. So the strong negative, evil-intended exposure of the CAM-therapist, most often with fabricated evidences and untrue accusations, will destroy the CAM-therapist practice. The national health authorities could save a good doctor by investigating the case that is brought to attention in the media, and tell everybody what they found out; but this is not how it works. It seems the reality around a government is too politically and financially motivated to be guided primarily by truth and honesty. Instead of investigating the actual case, the public organs normally start to investigate the CAM-therapist himself. They normally go through all his case-records, many hundred of them, to see if he have done some errors in the past. Often this investigation goes back for many years. And the criteria for an error is seldom that a patient were harmed, or not helped; even if every single patient is helped and perfectly satisfied, the CAM-physician will be blamed that he is not treating according to normal biomedical standard.

The patients who start complaining will win their cases just because of this, in spite of knowing what treatment they originally accepted, and in spite of this treatment actually helping them. Most sadly, as soon as the CAM-therapist is seen as a non-healing and a destructive, harmful therapist, much of the therapeutic gain is actively destroyed by the patients, to disengage and distance himself or herself from the therapist. So

many hours and years of good therapeutic work with the patients can be wasted in a single evil campaign. Non-drug intervention is always using the placebo effects (12), and the placebo effect is as strong, just reversed. So the patients can easily destroy their therapeutic gains.

The double fork-attack by the media and the public health authorities are mutually reinforcing each other, making life a true hell for the CAM-therapist, who can literally lose everything in a few days or weeks. CAM-therapists who experience this are often forced to flee their own country, and in practice almost all basic human rights are seriously violated (1,11, see also appendix). It is worth to underline that it is the national health authorities that have the faith of the citizens, as it is normally expected that these national organs are there for the sake of the citizens. Everybody knows of course that the boulevard press or media are living from lies about sex, violence and all evil. So the responsibility for the massive violation of the human rights of the CAM-therapists is with the national health authorities.

Witch burning/hunting of the CAM-therapists is a social phenomenon fueled by a combination of several strong interests in society: The people want entertainment, and this must be about sex, violence, abuse, failure etc. The “evil doctor” abusing his patients is one of the archetypical stories that never stops entertaining. The media makes lots of money on twisting reality and adding sex and violence to the stories and the best stories are about people intending to do good, but instead being sexually violent or abusive. CAM-therapy is strongly provocative as it is body- and sex positive, believing strongly in the healing powers of nature. It has lots of enemies, like the pharmaceutical companies, the biomedical physicians, conservative people in power positions etc. Witch burning of CAM-therapists often involve politicians taking a free ride to exploit the situation and gain political position and power. This often leads to strong activation of public health organizations to investigate and even arrest the CAM-therapist and a strong motivation to “save the patients” by proving his guilt. Often this process creates its own evidence against the CAM therapists, very much like the famous processes against the witches.

In the process of being torched as a witch the CAM-therapist often loses all human rights, all

material and intellectual properties and his family/friends are often also prosecuted, making it impossible for him to stay in his own country. He often ends up like a refugee, who not even in the neighboring countries can live and practice his CAM-therapy. Even if the CAM-therapist in the end of the process wins in the court of law and all accusations turn out to be false, he will often have lost everything, because of his bad public standing. It is most problematic that witch-burning seems to be systematically used as a weapon against the CAM-therapists in processes started all over the world by powerful organizations like the Quackwatch with 130 employees seemingly being used the pharmaceutical industry (11). It is therefore important that every person professionally involved in health and justice understands the mechanism of witch burning to avoid to participate in it.

What should be done?

To prevent the national health authorities violating the basic human rights of the CAM-therapist and destroy good therapists that the country desperately needs and hinder the development of medicine into a more efficient, more holistic, and less harmful medicine, it is absolutely necessary that:

1. The national authority only investigate the actual case or complaint, and only when this is substantiated by facts - “clear and convincing evidence”, and not by “preponderance of evidence”. If it is substantiated then there is a reason to investigate the general practice of the CAM-therapists.
2. All investigations should be done in absolute confidentiality regarding the public and the media, and in complete openness regarding the CAM-therapist, who must be heard before any decision regarding the (mal)treatment is made.
3. Educated experts in CAM, not biomedical experts and psychiatrists, must do the investigation. In Europe for example we have the Master of Science in complementary, psychosocial and integrative medicine at the

- Interuniversity College in Graz based on a dedicated and long CAM-practice.
4. As non-drug therapy always use placebo, shift in consciousness and implanted philosophy of life (13), and so far we do not have a developed science of consciousness, the actual treatment must be judged only from its results, not from its scientific or un-scientific basis. Holy madness, crazy wisdom etc might be highly efficient, but un-scientific (14). Obvious evil behavior can be a tool, as traumas from evil acts according the principle of similarity, can only be healed by the repetition (in a smaller scale) of the evil act (2,3,4,15,16). The CAM-therapist acting "evil", or saying "evil things" (example: Yalom) (17) can and will be a part of holistic existential therapy.
 5. When the results of a non-drug CAM-treatment are investigated, it is worth to remember, that side effects are almost non-present in CAM-therapy without violent or sexual abuse (18), and if these two aspects are involved this is clearly a police matter. As in psychiatry, coercive persuasion is often used in CAM; in CAM this normally happens after consent and mutual agreement, in contrast to the coercive treatment in psychiatry. The signs of coercive persuasion, or "brain-washing" is "feeling of guilt, dependency, low self-esteem, worthlessness, anxiety and hopelessness in vulnerable individuals" (19), severe reduction of autonomy, and in the most extreme cases, suicide (20-23). Without these signs coercive persuasion is not likely to have happened. Implanted memories of for example incest can be very harmful to the patient's social and family life; this can be a product of coercive persuasion, but are more likely to be a symptom of a sexually related personality disorder (13).
 6. When damage is obviously present, as in suicide, it must be considered that a substantial number of psychiatric patients commit suicide with several percent doing it during admission to a mental institution, and several more percent doing it after admission (24). Only when the therapist obviously has failed the patient, is it fair to blame him for this. If the patient becomes psychotic, it will often be a brief reactive psychosis with full recovery in a few days or weeks (18). This is a rare state that some patients spontaneously enter often without being provoked at all, so it is not fair to consider this an inflicted damage. We know that the use of the placebo effect often has some minor, temporary adverse effects in a few percent of the patients; this is not to be considered as harm.
 7. Sexual abuse can in therapy happen in spite of consent as it per definition is abuse when a physician/therapist has sex with a patient (25,26). It is important to notice that sex means coitus, cunnilingus or felatio, or the patient for any reason touching the therapist's naked genitals. If these kinds of sexual behavior are not present, the patient has not been sexually abused (27). The reason for this strict definition is the need for the physician to be able to talk freely about sexuality and to use all available, gynecological procedures and all sexological tools, including bodywork to help his patient.
 8. Information and consent: The patient can be deceived by false information and false promises, which is a serious violation of good CAM-practice. A non-drug intervention is either talk or bodywork, and neither of these needs special information or consent. If an orifice is penetrated digitally or with an instrument, consent is always needed.
 9. Research in non-drug therapy is always allowed and encouraged; data that can reveal the identity of the patient cannot be shared. Quality assurance is best done with a validated questionnaire on quality of life and self-assessed health (i.e. QOL5 (28)), before, after and a year after treatment (28)
 10. The ethical code can also be violated in spite of no harm done. We strongly recommend the ethical code of the International Society for Holistic Health (26).

Conclusions

In conclusion, non-drug therapy without coercion or coercive persuasion and without sexual abuse is not dangerous or harmful (18). Therefore it is wise for any national health authority to expect that this is an evil-intended campaign and not the truth, when it comes to a CAM-therapist being blamed of harming a patient, especially if this comes from his biomedical colleagues or an organization in any way related to the pharmaceutical industry.

In the case of a CAM-therapist being accused, as well as in all other cases, the CAM-therapist is innocent until proven guilty. The media can often destroy a CAM-therapist clinical practice and the therapeutic gains of his patients and raise doubts about his methods, in a few days, and even make satisfied patients complain. There should be laws against that but such are difficult to have in a country

with free speech. But the national authorities that have the trust of the people should under no circumstances engage in such evil-intended campaign. The national authorities should do their very best not to share any suspicions with the public, and only announce faults and harm, when they are certain to have happened. It is extremely important that governments and their organizations and employees keep clear of every connection to the pharmaceutical industry, financially or otherwise. Only when experts in CAM are evaluating other CAM-therapists can the evaluation be fair. This does not mean that acupuncturists must evaluate acupuncturists, but the evaluating person must be both a trained CAM-therapist and scientifically trained in the healing principles of CAM.

Appendix

Frequent violations of the human rights of CAM-physicians and CAM-therapists following from prosecution by a national health authority when provoked by biomedical opposition.



all human rights for all
 FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
1948-1998

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948

On December 10, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The National Health Authorities participation in the biomedical physicians and pharmaceutical industries "witch-burning" of CAM-physicians are causing the government to violate almost all the physicians humans rights. We will give examples of this in the following.

Article 1.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Comment: Starting an investigation of a CAM-physician who is being accused of harming a patient, without first establishing certain knowledge of the nature and extend of the possible harm, is violating the CAM-physicians fundamental rights of being treated equally to other doctors, and with dignity. This is not done in a spirit of brotherhood, but in a spirit of going for a criminal, even before it is known if the accusations are in any way true.

Article 2.

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Comment: The low status of a CAM-physician just being accused of quackery and harm of patients is being used against him.

Article 3.

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Comment: That the Health Authorities acts before it is established, if the patient has been harmed or violated in any way, seriously deprive the CAM-physician his liberty and security; the process of witch-hunting puts the CAM-physician in position, where his fundamental liberty and security is completely gone, and the government engaging in that is putting the CAM doctor though an experience very similar to torture, and many CAM-therapists end up broken and unable to work, very much like victims of torture.

Article 4.

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Comment: The persecuted CAM-therapist is often reduced to a position where he would be better off as a slave, and he often ends up abandoning his own country.

Article 5.

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Comment: The treatment by a national health authority engaging in and by this act justifying the “witch-burning” is extremely cruel, inhuman and degrading indeed. When quality of life is very low suicide can be a rational act, and if the CAM-physician commits suicide during a campaign partly run by a national authority, this authority is partly responsible for the suicide.

Article 6.

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Comment: “Witch-burning” of a CAM-physician is in effect similar to severe physical, invalidating harm and even murder in some cases, and should be considered similar to that by law.

Article 7.

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Comment: The treatment of the CAM-physician by the health authorities, as if he was bad or evil because of his preference for CAM instead of biomedicine is discrimination per se.

Article 8.

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Comment: The national health authorities should protect CAM-physicians from encroachment, not participate in them.

Article 9.

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Comment: The social status of a “witch-burned” CAM-physician is similar to an arrested or exiled citizen.

Article 10.

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Comment: When the national health authorities are making up the evidence against the CAM-physician, the tribunal becomes anything but impartial.

Article 11.

(1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defense.

(2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission, which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Comment: By participating in the public witch burning of the CAM-physician, the national health authorities do NOT presume the CAM-therapist innocent; this violates Article 11(1). As the evidence created by the health authorities are often used in the court against the CAM-physician, the trial is not fair at all.

Article 12.

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Comment: The national health authority should work actively against the attacks on CAM-physician’s honor and reputation, not participating in it.

Article 13.

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.

(2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Comment: Returning to ones country is often impossible for the torched CAM-physician.

Article 14.

(1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

(2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Comment: When the CAM-physician seeks asylum in another country, the witch-burning often starts all-over again.

Article 15.

- (1) Everyone has the right to a nationality.
- (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Comment: The witch-burning can deprive the CAM-physician his nationality.

Article 16.

- (1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
- (2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
- (3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Comment: By false accusation of harmful behavior and sexual abuse in the witch-burning process, the CAM-physician's family life is often violated; when the national health authorities participate in the witch-burning they become guilty in violating article 16.

Article 17.

- (1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
- (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Comment: The process of witch-burning often deprive the CAM-therapist all his property, as he cannot make a living anymore and thus loses everything if he choose to stay in his own country.

Article 18.

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Comment: When the CAM-therapist is forced to abandon his CAM-practice because of not conforming to or believing in biomedicine, this is a violence of article 18.

Article 19.

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Comment: When the hearing of the CAM-physician is not correct and sufficient, and when the answers are not taking into consideration, this is a violation of article 19.

Article 20.

- (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
- (2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Comment: It is when the physician chooses to become CAM-therapist instead of belonging to the biomedical society that he is torched.

Article 21.

(1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

(2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.

(3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Comment: When the CAM-physician is given a bad reputation in society his political carrier is ruined.

Article 22.

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Comment: The which-burning deprives the CAM-therapist of his dignity and often also his possibilities for personal development (the money necessary for therapy etc).

Article 23.

(1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

(2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

(3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

(4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Comment: The process of which-burning most often deprives the CAM-therapist of his work and income; after the process he will often only earn a fraction per hour of what he earned before. If he did research he will often be deprived of his funding. The process will almost always burden his family and often lead to family break-up. His children will often have severe disadvantages from his poor social standing, like the other kids will not be allowed to come in the home etc. His company and trade unions will almost often be compromised.

Article 24.

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Comment: The process of which-burning most often deprives the CAM-therapist all rest and reduces leisure significantly; money for holidays etc are often short.

Article 25.

(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

(2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Comment: The witch-burning often completely deprives the CAM-therapist of his standard of living and very often he will become sick from the pressure, prosecution and lack of sense of coherence with his society. Friends and colleagues will often turn their back on him.

Article 26.

(1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

(2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

(3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Comment: The CAM therapist will normally lose the value of his education or therapeutic training, as he often will lose his license and/or ability to practice.

Article 27.

(1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

(2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Comment: The witch-burning process normally deprives the CAM-therapist of his free participation in society and his scientific etc. production is often losing its value as his name is ruined.

Article 28.

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Comment: The witch-burning destroys the social order around the CAM-therapist.

Article 29.

(1) Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

(2) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

(3) These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Comment: The witch-burning process deprives the CAM-therapist of his possibilities to exercise most of his formal rights and freedoms.

Article 30.

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

Comment: Unfortunately the State often plays the most central role in the which-burning of the CAM-therapists.

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