

DEDICATION

Psychiatric survivor, sculptor, activist Dorothea S. Buck-Zerchin



Dorothea Buck-Zerchin

ENUSP dedicates this first edition of **Advocacy Update** to psychiatric survivor, sculptor and longstanding activist Dorothea S. Buck-Zerchin, who was born in 1917 and continues to live and campaign in Germany. Buck-Zerchin endured three stays in psychiatric hospitals in the period from 1936 to 1959 when she was subjected to coercion, including sterilization, cold wet sheet packs and injections. She was not given a single chance to talk about the origin or meaning of her psychotic episodes.

An activist in the self-help movement for more than 40 years, Buck-Zerchin testifies continually to the historical crimes of psychiatry and their effects on the current mental health system dominated by the biomedical model. She pleads for a paradigm shift toward a psychosocial system based on the wealth of patients' experiences and the development of alternatives, such as the therapeutic principles of "Soteria" and Yrjö Alanen's "Need-adapted Treatment." In 1992, she co-founded the [German Bundesverband Psychiatrie-Erfahrener](#) (BPE) of which she is the Honorary Chair. On February 19, 2008, she was awarded the the greatest decoration of the Federal Republic of Germany for service to the community.

Recently, she has voiced the need to address the European Parliament about the crimes of psychiatry during the Nazi regime including the lack of compensation and reparations for victims and their families. It is a call echoed in France and elsewhere in Europe, including by those fighting 60 years on for the recognition of the memory of thousands of psychiatric patients, "the lost people of history", detained and deported to the Nazi concentration camps.

We urge you to read Buck-Zerchin's work, including many lectures in Germany and abroad and contributions to specialist journals and anthologies, which can be found here <http://www.bpe-online.de/english/dorotheabuck.htm>



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“SURVIVOR” - Kaety Moore, UK

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