



## Editorial Special Issue

**Albert Persaud**

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We would like to dedicate this Special Edition to Dr Albert Persaud. Albert is the author or co-author of the majority of the Careif global position statements in this special edition. He is a lifelong campaigner in equalities and health and an active and dedicated proponent of cultural psychiatry. Albert has always stood up for what he believed was right in terms of practice, policy and research throughout his career, even if this sometimes came at a personal or professional cost. He co-founded the charity CAREIF - Centre for Applied Research and Evaluation International Foundation ([www.careif.org](http://www.careif.org)). Careif is an international mental health charity that works towards protecting and promoting mental health, wellbeing, resilience and resourcefulness with a special focus towards eliminating inequalities and strengthening social justice.

Careif principles include working creatively with humility, dignity and balanced partnerships in order to ensure that all cultures and societies play their part in our mission of protecting and promoting mental health and wellbeing. We do this by respecting the traditions of all world societies, whilst believing that culture and traditions can evolve for even greater benefit to individuals and society.

Albert has recently retired from Careif to which he made a significant and irreplaceable contribution. The multiplicity of his skills and networks are second to none. Many people from numerous countries have been touched by Albert's concern for others, his commitment to mental health and his generosity in a variety of ways. His contributions to Careif will be much missed.

Albert had an inspirational career. He first joined the British National Health Service (NHS) in 1974 as a porter and then worked as a care assistant. He studied for his professional psychiatric qualifications and went on to work in public health medicine. He joined the Mental Health policy branch of the Department of Health, producing and developing a number of mental health policy reforms during the late 1990s and through the 2000s. This work included developing and consulting upon the Mental Health Act 2007 and the Mental Capacity Act 2005. He was one of the founders of the

National Institute for Mental Health in England (NIMHE) which was established following the National Service Framework for Mental Health to support the implementation of evidence-based practice. Albert is cited/acclaimed as one of the top 40 people of Asian Origin to have influenced the development and shaped the NHS: Nurturing the Nation: The Asian Contribution to the NHS since 1948. <http://nurturingthenation.org.uk/>

Albert co-authored and co-edited the Mental Health Legislation Resource, an introductory compendium of some of the most commonly used legislation in mental health and has written many papers in the areas of culture and mental health, post-natal depression, and the law and clinical practice. He was a member of the Mental Health Act Commission (MHAC), a trustee of the Long Term Medical Condition Alliance (LMCA), Vice-Chair of the Depression Alliance UK and Chair of the GAMIAN Europe Scientific Committee (Global Alliance for Mental Health Advocacy Networks). He has also served on the advisory board of the South Asian Health Foundation, as well as a number of other scientific committees and boards including the World Association of Cultural Psychiatry, the World Health Organisation and the European Co-operation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research Committee. He was a founding member of Primary Care Mental Health and Education (PRImhE) which promoted the development of primary mental health care evidence-based practice.

Albert is retired but continues to be active in the field of mental health research and policy. He was Awarded Honorary Life Membership (Fellow) by the General Assembly of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA), World Congress in Berlin, Germany in 2017; citation " in recognition of your hard work and contribution to psychiatry and mental health. This is one of the highest honours that the WPA can bestow on an individual".

He recently received the Seva Award for Service to the World Association of Cultural Psychiatry (WACP) and Contributions to Cultural Psychiatry, at the World Association of Cultural Psychiatry Congress, Columbia University New York USA in 2018 - citation: "for your consistent contributions to WACP and to the advancement of our discipline around the world".

Albert has recently published a series of papers on geopolitical factors and mental health in the International Journal of Social Psychiatry.