

To: The Anxiety, Obsessive Compulsive (OC) Spectrum, Post-traumatic, and Dissociative Disorders Work Group, chaired by Katharine Phillips, M.D

From: The Board of Directors, The International Society for Traumatic Stress

Date: June 13, 2011

Re: Comment on Global Nature of Traumatic Stress

Cc: Geoffrey Reed, Senior Program Officer, WHO

The International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies is an organization which is dedicated to increasing awareness of and effective response to the full range of the effects of trauma around the globe. As such, we applaud and support the designation of an umbrella category of "Trauma and Stress-Related Disorders." The presence of such a category unifies and highlights the different ways in which the effects of trauma are manifest. In addition, taken together, this set of outcomes is perhaps the most prevalent class of mental disorders in the world, identifying traumatic stress as a major global public health problem to which attention and resources should be directed.

Given the global importance of the consequences of traumatic stress, we recommend that the DSM-V and WHO workgroups in Stress and Trauma-related Disorders reaffirm their commitments to collaborate on the formulation of disorders and share summaries of data on which decisions are based. This type of collaboration would yield greater knowledge regarding consistency and differences in the expression of the effects of trauma across cultures and environments, and contribute to the development of effective preventive and intervention policies and programs world-wide.