

Ayanay Psychological Accreditation (APA) is seeking to raise awareness among the public, employers, educators, and the political establishment. The world of mental health is in crisis and the infrastructure of understanding this arena has for decades, led us to a situation that is costing lives.

A bottleneck has been placed around the qualified therapeutic professional, by charities that wilfully and knowingly profit from a mis-perception of their status, authority and role, as VOLUNTARY Registers. There is NO Governing Body In the UK for Counsellors and Psychotherapists. Therefore, representations such as 'The Professional Body', 'Providing Regulatory Standards' are open to misinterpretation. The Mental Health sector is only supported by Voluntary Registers and therefore such statements are unethical, misleading, coercive, and counterproductive to positive Mental Health.

Qualified Therapeutic Professionals in the sphere of Counselling and Psychotherapy must meet a minimum baseline, long accepted by the sector. A qualified Counsellor / Psychotherapist is qualified to work with clients upon attaining.

A Diploma (Level 4) in Counselling and / or Psychotherapy, that involves approximately 450 hours of direct tutor led studying. (Between 2 and 5 years study P/T).

Diplomas are invariably passed on completion of supporting feedback from.

1. A tutor or tutors.
2. Placement Manager. (Minimum 100 hrs of structured placement experience)
3. Group Supervisor.
4. Individual Supervisor.

For the protection of Best Practice, students studying this topic will also have been through their own therapy and ethical best practice would ensure that Individual Supervision is maintained following Qualification.

The extent of the unethical manipulation and clear coercive grooming that has taken place is shocking in itself, what should be unforgivable is the charities blatant disregard and unwillingness to be transparent with the public, employers, and even government agencies, that the limit of their role and responsibilities extends only to that of a charity with a VOLUNTARY register, not a Regulatory, Governing or Professional Body.

The impact of revenue based coercion and manipulation is a BOTTLENECK AROUND COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY, THAT DIRECTLY RESULTS IN **LOSS OF LIFE**. APA is calling on Employers and education providers, to publicly and permanently, ensure that the manipulation and indirect discrimination of Qualified Therapeutic Professionals is ended, with immediate effect.

We applaud all Qualified Therapeutic Professionals that engage in ethical delivery of support to those in need, at the point of need. APA respects your freedom to choose the Voluntary Register that meets your expectations and support needs. We encourage all professionals to demonstrate the best of their Therapeutic knowledge and self-awareness in these difficult and challenging times.

The Mental Health crisis that has been amplified by the circumstances of the recent pandemic, has seen an unprecedented rise in the need for Mental Health Services and a spike in the subsequent call for Qualified Therapeutic Professionals. With such little accurate awareness of the realities of this arena, it is only inevitable that job adverts, are inaccurately representing the role of VOLUNTARY REGISTERS / CHARITIES and therefore unwittingly producing a restriction on the Qualified Therapeutic Professionals being able to deliver their services, skills, and experience, for the benefit of those in need.

- ☆ No Voluntary Register Or Charity Is A Regulatory Standard.
- ☆ Nor Can Qualified Professionals Be Legally Mandated To Be Affiliated From Employment On The Grounds Of Affiliation Or Non-Affiliation To A Voluntary Register.
- ☆ Qualified Is Qualified, Affiliation / Accreditation Does Not To Voluntary Registers.
- ☆ Qualified Professionals Cannot Legally Be Prevented Or Removed from employment based on Affiliation to a Voluntary Register.

Affiliation to a VOLUNTARY REGISTER IS THE PREFERRED STATUS OF ALL QUALIFIED THERAPEUTIC PROFESSIONALS. However, this is not a legal requirement or the role of an employer to mandate the register an employee is affiliated too. APA encourages all employers to verify the Ethical Standards of ALL VOLUNTARY Registers as part of their own due diligence.

APA believes that the public should be aware of the limitations an unregulated sector has. No Voluntary register has the authority to prevent a Counsellor or Psychotherapist from practicing, a VOLUNTARY Register can only remove a practitioner from their register. There is no License to practice and therefore, no capacity to sanction a practitioner with a removal of their right to practice.

There is also no legal requirement to meet a preset standard or function to a minimum duty of care. It is vital that the public are aware of some simple checks, prior to engaging with an ethical counsellor or psychotherapist.

APA has encouraged organisations that financially benefit from this coercion to publicly clarify the limit of their role and responsibilities as they extend, only to that of a charity with a VOLUNTARY register, not that of a Regulatory, Governing or Professional Body. The only formal response received, was from the largest charity in the sector.

"I have discussed BACP accreditation with our Workforce Policy team to gain some clarification. [REDACTED] do not insist that organisations specify accredited [REDACTED] members for specific roles, employers are at liberty to set and apply their own criteria / standards for recruitment – within the scope of the law – which [REDACTED] are not accountable for....

....It is certainly not our aim to make anyone believe we are a governing body, nor is this something we have ever stated, it wouldn't be beneficial to our members if we tried to affect their financial wellbeing.

We do recognise that our members are our existence and [REDACTED] is working to ensure we're providing the best service possible as a membership organisation. Due to this we do not feel it would be necessary to make a public statement as you have requested."

Yet APA Executives have witnessed Senior Executives publicly present this same charity as "The ONLY Professional Body that ALL ETHICAL COUNSELLORS MUST BE CONNECTED TO"