

To

Whom it May Concern,

Including Press and Media in

Sofia Municipality and Health District

Bulgaria.

**Letter of professional support for Dr. Galabina Tarashoeva, Manager of Open Psychotherapeutic Centre “Prof. N. Shipkovenski”, facing a new 3 year period of leadership.**

I, the undersigned, have known my colleague dr. Galabina Tarashoeva since long from co-operations in different international posts, especially inside the International Association for Group Psychotherapy and Group Process, IAGP, a world-wide organization with members in all continents, the foremost one in the world since 40 years. In our present mission the two of us work as Co-chairpersons of the IAGP Commission for Revision of its Constitution and Bylaws, a very demanding project, where we work closely and intensely together. Before this when dr. Tarashoeva, like today, was Director and member of the IAGP Board of Directors, and I was, during three years, Chair of the Ethics and Professional Conduct Committee of IAGP, we also had close and important work together.

Asking her, before Christmas last year, about her professional circumstances in her home town, Sofia, I came, to my great surprise, and even greater dismay, to understand that she had been – and still is – personal target and also scapegoat for a systematic campaign, clearly aiming at disparaging her work as Manager of the Open Psychotherapeutic Centre “Prof. N. Shipkovenski” and force her out of leadership there in connection with upcoming competition about the next three-year period of employment. Since I know her professional excellence and her outstanding personality well, I can no longer witness this ongoing defamatory process without making my knowledge about her heard and offer her my professional support.

In the campaign she has been accused of systematically refusing to admit patients to her hospital and having tried to close the emergency ward. Two official Inspections, one by the Metropolitan Region Health Inspectorate and one by the Health Directorate of the Metropolitan Municipality, have both found nothing whatsoever to criticize regarding admittance of patients and offer no complaints or recommendations in this matter. The critic has proven unfounded –which is important since, generally spoken, admittance to hospital wards for psychiatric or somatic care always is a very complex specialist matter, which easily can give rise to accusations and complaints from outside sources and/or

relatives. Obviously the hospital has, in the parts where dr. Tarashoeva is Manager, been successfully keeping the needed balance and competence.

Instead of trying to “close” the emergency ward dr. Tarashoeva has, together with others, reported factual, existing under-funding and shortage of staff after municipal cut-down – and asked for better funding and resources for the emergency ward, like any responsible and competent leader must do in such a situation. Instead of closing she has made it survive. The whole campaign against Dr. Tarashoeva falls, when scrutinized, into nothing and can for me only discredit those persons and instances which have launched it, since it resembles all too much corrupt and terrorizing methods used in dictatorships and is unworthy of and must be condemned in Modern European societies and administrations.

Dr. Tarshoeva has a more than three decades long CV containing a highly qualified and successful professional career in Psychiatry and in Psychotherapy, nationally as well as internationally. I have no reason here to go into more detail about these aspects. My personal opinion about Dr. Tarashoeva, based on the highly complex and demanding ethical, professional, legal issues we have worked with is that she, besides her ease in cooperation, great social capacities and highly trained intelligence and professional knowledge and skill, also is a natural leader with integrity and is steered by high and demanding values of humanity, democracy and social welfare in all its aspects. Added to that her personal hardworking habits, and her warm humor, makes it easy for me to congratulate warmly the organization that will succeed to employ her as their Leader!

Stockholm Sweden

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Sincerely yours

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Retired after more than 40 years as Specialist Psychiatrist, Head of Clinics,  
Specialist Psychotherapist, Responsible Director for University Level training in Psychiatry,  
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