

**What about the role of peaceful, creative, direct action PROTEST in challenging the mental health and psychiatric drug industry?**



**MindFreedom International (MFI) board approved the following basic concept. MFI now wants YOUR input, feedback and ideas about...**

## *PROPOSAL 5-5-12 - draft*

Every day is a very good day for peaceful protest to change mental health care. But how about building toward united, international, peaceful, simultaneous protests? Smaller versions of this strategy have worked before.

- What if we applied lessons our movement has learned over 40 years?
- What if we truly united for truly major creative events?
- What if we allowed for plenty of input and planning time to involve grassroots leadership?
- What if we applied 21<sup>st</sup> century technology to protests, so that we are our "own media"?

MindFreedom International and their director David Oaks, propose preparing for such actions. They would build momentum toward such a day – Saturday, 5 May 2012. We need your feedback.

On the **OPPOSITE SIDE** of this page are some proposed principles upon which we would base this action.

*Intrigued? Inspired? Concerned? Curious? We want your ideas, suggestions, involvement, brainstorm!*

Please e-mail your feedback about Proposal 5-5-12 to MFI at [action@mindfreedom.org](mailto:action@mindfreedom.org), or phone MFI office at 541-345-9106. Please copy and circulate this proposal with colleagues and friends for their input. Thank you!

# Proposed organizing principles for *Project 5-5-12*

*(See other side for draft outline of this project, and invitation for your feedback and suggestions.)*

## 1) **Creative maladjustment.**

Our actions would include art and enactments that show the world effective alternatives to corporate mental health approaches. We'd use 'mad pride' street theater and stories. We'd use web technology like YouTube for our own 'live' media coverage.

For ten years, Martin Luther King referred over and over to the power of "creative maladjustment." He called over and over for an "International Association for the Advancement of Creative Maladjustment." Patch Adams, a famous MindFreedom activist, has called for each of us to create the IAACM in reality! Now is the time to combine grassroots creativity, and the latest technology.

## 2) **Nonviolence.**

***We will follow guidelines for peaceful direct action modeled after MLK's civil rights movement protests.*** *(To read these guidelines, google the words – MindFreedom nonviolence guidelines)*

## 3) **United demands.**

Of course, we have many, many grievances! One additional demand is to bring representatives of key mental health professional and industry associations to the table for something they have so far refused: Public, civil dialogue about human rights, with representatives of groups of mental health consumers and psychiatric survivors. Perhaps that could include your group?

## 4) **Withdraw cooperation.**

*Respecting individual choice and helping each person to prepare their own alternatives... we would encourage all individuals to simultaneously stop using all elements of the mental health system that do not endorse principles of empowerment, choice and self-determination. We would call for a boycott all such agencies, centers and providers, like a 'strike'!*

## 5) **Direct action option.**

For those who are ready and receive training, some of us may use nonviolent creative civil disobedience. One center of this can be peacefully demanding entrance to and dialogue in the American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting that starts that same day in Philadelphia. The APA is preparing to publish the next edition of their harmful 'label bible, *DSM 5*, the next year in 2013.

## 6) **Empowered unity.**

For 24 years, MindFreedom International has built a track record of a united, independent coalition that combines the "spirit of mutual cooperation" with activism. We invite other groups to work with us in that spirit. We pledge to strive for inclusion, diversity, transparency and unity. We seek to have "just enough" organizing, to empower each individual participant to the maximum extent. We look forward to supporting your own leadership in Project 5-5-12. Let's start by hearing YOUR feedback and ideas! *(over)*