

Maria Piniou-Kalli (Greece)

Date of birth: 6 May 1943

Profession: Medical doctor, dermatologist

Education

Graduated from the Medical School of the University of Thessaloniki, Greece (1966)

Specialization in Internal Pathology and additionally in Dermatology-Venereology

Ph.D. from the University of Athens. Thesis title: “Antiproteolytic enzymes in Acne Conglobata”

Languages

Greek (mother tongue)

English (good)

French (good)

Italian (good)

Russian (adequate)

Spanish (adequate)

Work experience

1968-1974, Practitioner in Internal Pathology

1977-1980, Director of the Skin Department at the “Pammakaristos” Hospital, Athens

1981-1985, Director of the Skin Department at the “Aglaia Kyriakou” Children's Hospital, Athens

Private practice as a Dermatologist since 1974

Medical Director of the Medical Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims, Athens, since 1989-2005

General Secretary of the Balkan Network for the Prevention of Torture and the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims, 1993-1996

General Secretary of the Middle East and North Africa Network for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims, since 1997

President of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), since 1998-2003

Advisor for the UNHCR concerning vulnerable groups since 2007

Special social/political contribution

Sentenced by the Greek Junta (1967-1974) to internal exile and imprisonment at Gyaros Island prison for her anti-dictatorial views, she served as a physician to other inmates who had suffered severe physical abuse at the hands of the prison guards and the police. Her later activism on behalf of human rights is rooted in this experience.

### Social and political activities

General Secretary of the Student Association “Hyppocrates” of the Medical School of the University of Salonika (1964-1966)

In charge of the women's division of the Youth Movement “Lambrakis” (1964-1966)

Member of the Board of Directors of the Greek Division of Amnesty International (1982-1988). Coordinator for medical groups

**Founding member of the Ecologists-Alternatives Party. In addition, a member of its presiding board three consecutive times, i.e. for the years 1990 to 1992**

**Participation in the European elections of 1990 and 1994 as a member of the Ecologists-Alternatives Party on the electoral register**

**Parliamentary candidate for the Ecologists-Alternatives Party for the years 1989, 1990 and 1993**

**Parliamentary candidate for the Ecologists-Greens for the years 2009 (Head of the list for territorial parliamentary candidates) and 2012**

Member of the Greek Committee of Conscientious Objectors

Founding member of the Committee of “Recycling” and the Committee of “Mediterranean SOS”

Medical Director and member of the Board of Directors of the Medical Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims, Athens, since 1989

Member of the International Council and the Bureau of the Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims, Copenhagen, since 1991

Member of the Greek Committee of “Mir Sada” (“Peace Now”)

Founding member of the Committee of Greek-Kurdic Friendship

Member of the Organizing Committee of the European Network for Refugees

Member of the International Society for Health and Human Rights

General Secretary of the Middle East and North Africa Network of Rehabilitation Centers for Torture Victims

Nominated for the Human Rights Award of the French Democracy, 1993

Nominated for the Woman of Europe Award by the Greek Democracy, 1997 and 2003

General Secretary of the Balkan Network of Rehabilitation Centers for Torture Victims from 1993 to 1996

Vice-President of the Civil and Scientific Association “POLITIA”, 1996

Candidate for the Presidency of Democracy in 1996, proposed by the women parliamentarians of all the parties

Founding Member of the Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims of Thessaloniki, 1997

President of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims in Copenhagen, Denmark, 1998-2003

#### Participation in national events

26 June 1998, event dedicated to the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, organized by the Medical Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims, Athens. Presentation entitled “The significance of the International Day in Support of the Victims of Torture”

15 December 1997, event dedicated to the forty-ninth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Awards given for the first Panhellenic Poetry Contest organized by the Medical Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims, Athens. Presentation entitled “Human rights now”

Torture in the Middle East and North Africa: Prevention and Treatment Strategies, Athens, 21-23 June 1996

Balkan Conference “Torture and other forms of maltreatment - medical, legal and social dimension”, Thessaloniki, 1-3 December 1995, presentation entitled “New clinical views on torture sequelae”

Two-day seminar, “Psychological, medical and legal aspects of torture”, Alexandroupolis, 2 and 3 June 1995, presentation entitled “New clinical views on torture victims”

Two-day training seminar, “Medical and legal aspects of torture”, Ioannina, 12 and 13 November 1994, presentation entitled “The medical aspect of torture - new clinical views”

Balkan Meeting for “The creation of a Balkan network for the prevention of torture, the evidence of torture and the rehabilitation of torture victims”, Athens, 12 November 1993, presentation entitled “The present situation in Greece in relation to the Balkans. Incentives and objectives for the creation of a network”

First training seminar, “The medical and legal aspects of torture - an approach from the diagnostic and therapeutic point of view”, Athens, 8 and 9 May 1992, presentation entitled “The medical approach to victims of torture - new clinical pictures”

#### Participation in international meetings

Fifth Consultative Meeting on Core Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa, Helsinki, 21-24 May 1998

Statement at the press conference on “Rehabilitation of torture victims: a necessity for democracy”, 2 April 1998 during the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights, Geneva

World Psychiatric Association Thematic Conference: The Synthesis between Psychopharmacology and Psychotherapy, Jerusalem, Israel, 16-21 November 1997  
Preparatory meeting for the formation of the Middle East and North Africa Regional Network for the Prevention of Torture and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims, Gaza City, 15 and 16 October 1997

Gaza Community Mental Health Programme, Third International Conference on Health and Human Rights, Gaza City, 13-15 October 1997, presentation entitled "Regionalization of activities concerning human rights"

World Congress on Rehabilitation in Psychiatry, Belgrade, 27-30 August 1997, presentation entitled "New clinical views on torture sequelae"

Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Health Sector hearings, Cape Town, South Africa, 17 and 18 June 1997

Third Conference on Solidarity and Cooperation in the Mediterranean, Madrid, 24-26 November 1995

Second International Conference on "Palestinians in transition: community rehabilitation and development", Gaza, 13-15 September 1995, presentation entitled "Presentation of the Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims in Athens - Balkan Network of Rehabilitation Centers"

Presentation on the Green European Women's Conference (preparing the Beijing Conference in September 1995) at the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg, 18 and 19 May 1995

Fourth International Conference on the Care of Victims of Organized Violence, Tagaylay City, Philippines, 5-9 December 1994, presentation entitled "The psychosomatic development of children from families with members who have been submitted to torture"

South-East European Society for Neurology and Psychiatry, Tenth Thessaloniki Conference, Vienna, 6-8 October 1994, round table discussion "The psychological sequelae to torture victims as an outcome of individual or mass organized violence and its treatment", 8 October 1994, presentation entitled "The present situation in Greece in relation to the Balkans: incentives, objectives and perspectives for the creation of the Network"

Training seminar on the rehabilitation of torture survivors, 2-4 June 1994, Tirana, Albania, presenting four papers: "Clinical views on torture sequelae", "Epidemiology of torture", "Treatment of the somatic sequelae of torture" and "Deontology and conventions: a doctor's position with regard to torture"

Symposium on "Nationalism and racism in Europe", Istanbul, 29 and 30 April 1994, presentation entitled "Human rights and nationalism in Greece today"

Public hearing on "The fight against torture and the role of rehabilitation centers" at the European Parliament, Committee on Foreign Affairs and Security, Brussels, 20

and 21 December 1993, presentation entitled “Healing the wounds - correcting the injustice: the issue of impunity”

Medicine and Human Rights Conference, Cairo, Egypt, 5 and 6 November 1993, presentation entitled “The medical approach to torture victims - new clinical views”

Sixth International Symposium on Torture as a Challenge to the Medical and other Health Professions, Buenos Aires, 20-22 October 1993, presentation entitled “Impunity and the tragedy goes on”

XXII Tromso - Seminar in Medicine, “Children, sexuality and abuse, international symposium on the medical, legal and ethical aspects of child sexual abuse”, 22-24 June 1993, presentation “Street children in Athens”

World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, Austria, 14-25 June 1993, representing Greece and the Medical Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims at the NGO level. I had the opportunity to make a statement in the Main Committee in order to include torture in the Final Document, which was finally achieved.

Third European Conference on Traumatic Stress, Bergen, Norway, 6-10 June 1993, Symposium “Focus on Eastern Europe”, presentation “Developing rehabilitation services for torture victims in Greece and other Balkan countries”

Fourth meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights, Geneva, 19-30 April 1993

Fifth International Symposium on Torture and the Medical Profession, Istanbul, 22-24 October 1992, “Alopecia as a result of electroshock: traumatic or psychogenic?”

European Healthworkers Network Conference, Hamburg, Germany, 19 and 20 September 1992, presentation entitled “The situation of refugees and asylum seekers in Greece”

“Medical and judicial aspects of torture: a diagnostical and therapeutical approach”, Tunis, 1992, presentation entitled “The medical approach to torture victims: new clinical views”

Third International Conference of Centers, Institutions and Individuals concerned with the Care of Victims of Organized Violence: Health, Political Repression and Human Rights, Santiago, Chile, 24-29 November 1991, presentation entitled “Torture and organized violence: torture in police stations”

Fourth International Symposium on Torture and the Medical Profession, Budapest, 24-26 October 1991, presentation entitled “Treatment of somatic consequences of torture”

XIX Tromso Seminar in Medicine, An International Symposium on Torture and the Medical Profession, University of Tromso, Bergen, Norway, 5-7 June 1990

International meeting of Amnesty International, Joy en Jossas, France, 1986

International meeting of Amnesty International, Rimini, Italy, 1983

Publications

Fifteen articles that concern my professional specialization were published in Greek medical journals

Two books have been published with my biography:

"Shadow of heros", by Myron Verouchakis published by the Columbia University, Michigan

"The justice cascade", by Katryn Sikkink

An award-winning documentary concerning my life and work was distributed intitled "Signs of people", by Stelios Kouloglou

The Art Channel broadcasted an hourly documentary presenting my work on torture victims.

Various papers presented at national and international meetings, conferences, workshops and symposiums have been published in the press