



October 2016

Dear Colleagues,

I really appreciate your concern and your very deep thoughts regarding us, and the current situation of the Haitian population. As part of this population, we feel grateful for your solidarity and actions to help us find supplies to cover primary necessities. If you wish, we could refer you to organizations that we trust and work with.

As an association, our members are, as usual, ready to help pro-bono. We are part of the humanitarian effort in all affected areas. We are in direct contact with DPC (Direction of Civil Protection) and OPS/OMS to be included in a concerted action. We are joining professionals' resources and defining strategies to do what we do best and provide effective psychological aid.

At no moment, have we considered canceling the conference. Here are reasons why:

- First of all, we think that developing resources, knowledge and reinforcing capacities is the best way to produce changes in our society. We need to reinforce our universities and organizations. It's urgent for us to give the chance to our students to participate in such a meeting as CRCP2016 and have the opportunity to visualize the future of our country as responsible professionals, not only as assisted victims.
- Second, we learned from earlier disasters that the best way to go through traumas is by normalizing activities and by being proactive. Please don't feel guilty to stay in a hotel and sleep comfortably. Haitian people are welcoming and we are happy to host you.

As an earthquake survivor, I personally can tell you that I was grateful for the shelter and bottles of water I received. However what I appreciated more and what was extremely useful for me, was the psychological support from my Haitian and foreign colleagues: they permitted me to bury my loved ones and to grieve. This has also been the experience of many of colleagues. Finally, by helping others with my psychological competencies, I definitively reconnected with my life.

Don't even consider not coming Dear Colleagues! You are in the perfect moment to help Haiti. Your presence is one of the best ways to help us.

Best regards

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