

# Preventing suicide A resource for media professionals Update 2017



**World Health  
Organization**



International Association  
for Suicide Prevention



# Preventing suicide: a resource for media professionals

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Update 2017

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## Foreword

Suicide is a serious global public health problem that demands our attention but preventing suicide is no easy task. Current research indicates that the prevention of suicide, while feasible, involves a whole series of activities, ranging from provision of the best possible conditions for bringing up our children and young people, through accurate and timely assessment of mental disorders and their effective treatment, to the environmental control of risk factors. Appropriate dissemination of information and awareness-raising are essential elements in the success of suicide prevention. Cultural, age- and gender-related variations need to be taken into account in all these activities.

In 1999 the World Health Organization (WHO) launched its worldwide initiative for the prevention of suicide. This booklet is the second revised version of one of the resources prepared which are addressed to specific social and professional groups that are particularly relevant to the prevention of suicide. The revised booklet is the product of continuing collaboration between WHO and the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP). It represents a link in a long and diversified chain involving a wide range of people and groups, including health professionals, educators, social agencies, governments, legislators, social communicators, law enforcers, families and communities.

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