

el Periòdic News

MENTAL HEALTH

Line open to 177: the anti-suicide phone is now operational in Andorra

It is a free service from Catalonia, which has no time limit

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Photograph of the meeting of the two parties involved in the signing of the agreement: the Ministry of Health and the Fundació Ajuda i Esperança.

PARIS MAMEGHANI
ANDORRA LA VELLA

As is well known, suicide is a very serious issue and even more so since it is the leading cause of death among young people in our society (including minors). It is for this reason that last Tuesday the Ministry of Health, together with the Catalan Foundati-

on Ajuda i Esperança, signed an agreement for the organization's collaboration for the launch of the suicide prevention telephone line: the 177, which had been open since the day before yesterday. A fact that triggered the public appearance of the Minister of Health, Helena Mas, together with the president of the Fundació Ajuda i Esperança, Esperança

Esteve. In this way, the minister began her speech by defining this cause of death as a «chakra», and exclaiming that it is surrounded by stigmas and taboos that do not help her understanding.

Mas made public the Emotional Aid Plan, which contemplates the staging of 60 different actions for the prevention and fight against suicide, since according

to the World Health Organization's warning, in the world there are about 700,000 suicides a year.

It should be noted that this plan encompasses a series of already existing healthcare systems, such as the emergency and mental health services, different care teams and the ambulatory communication service. A social problem about which the he-



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Moment of the signing of the agreement between the Minister of Health, Mas, and the president of the Fundació Ajuda i Esperança, Esteve.

ad of Health explained that «it must be spoken about with propriety, in an appropriate way», so as not to generate more stigmas. Following the signing of the agreement, which took place in the Government Administrative Building, the official inauguration was given to what has been cataloged as the 'Green Line', with the number 177, this being a measure of totally free and open telephone support for everyone who requires ongoing psychological support.

In turn, the president of the Fundació Ajuda i Esperança expressed that her foundation was



ESPERANÇA ESTEVE

A.I.E. FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

«We have a team of 400 highly cataloged and studied experts in the field of emotional help who operate from our territory to serve everyone»

«It is worth insisting that the decision always ends up being made by the person suing. We will only make him understand that he has other ways and solutions to face his life»

born 55 years ago and is consolidated with a staff of 400 «highly cataloged and trained» experts in the field of emotional help and who will attend from Catalonia (despite being an Andorran number) to any citizen who needs it, «regardless of their motives or reasons», said Esteve. A service that remains available in the Principality 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to address a cause that «not only had to be covered from a clinical perspective, but also from a community perspective», reasoned the manager of the foundation. In addition, she added that «the choice is always the person who calls, but that we give them another way to continue dealing with their reality».

A cause that also opened the round of questions from the press and that provoked Esteve's call that «resources, not only economic, but also human and therapeutic» must be allocated to the coverage of this social issue, and why not to mention, a little help can save a life. The president of the Ajuda i Esperança foundation clarified that, up to now, they have been able to carry out 50 rescues in the course of their service. «Trying to stop suffering without resorting to death», is the idea that the 'Green Line' wants to convey, which is complemented by a WhatsApp chat for emotional support that is also available from yesterday. ●

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