



For Immediate Release  
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## **WORLD Channel Examines Mental Health among Diverse BIPOC Communities in New Digital Series *Decolonizing Mental Health***

Boston, MA (June 22, 2021) – WORLD Channel, a national public media broadcast, online and social media platform with news and documentaries humanizing complex issues from across the globe, has launched [\*Decolonizing Mental Health\*](#), a digital short series designed to introduce viewers to the BIPOC mental health practitioners and everyday people changing the narrative and re-envisioning mental health for their communities.

*Decolonizing Mental Health* dismantles the racism that underscores the mental healthcare industry. By focusing its gaze on the transformative work of therapists and individuals of color, it calls for redressal of the ways psychiatric illness and health are defined. [\*Decolonizing Mental Health\*](#) is an exclusive WORLD Channel digital series in partnership with PBS [\*Mysteries of Mental Illness\*](#), premiering tonight from 9-11 pm ET on PBS (check local listings) and June 24th on WORLD Channel (check local listings).

“Some research shows there are obvious gaps in how communities of color have been able to access treatment for mental health issues,” said Chris Hastings, executive producer for WORLD Channel at GBH in Boston. “*Decolonizing Mental Health* brings the perspective of practitioners who are from those communities in their field because of their firsthand experience with these issues and a desire to make a difference for their community.”

The 20-episode short film series highlights BIPOC mental health professionals who provide innovative care for their communities, showing that it is possible to de-stigmatize mental health. Co-produced by RADA Studio, these films introduce new ways of thinking about mental healthcare, through the lens of these professionals of color who are working to *provide* customized treatment and support for underrepresented communities.

Each week, two to three short films will be released across WORLD Channel’s platforms ([worldchannel.org](http://worldchannel.org), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)) and the PBS app. The series will focus on seven themes: *Black Men and Mental Health; Indigenous Trauma; Asian Americans and Mental Health; Invisible Populations: Homelessness, Persons with Disabilities; Religion and Mental Health Treatment; and the Impact of Race and Whiteness on Mental Health Treatment.*

“The people we interviewed are both practitioners and influencers,” continued Hastings. “We’re trying to reframe what mental health looks like, introducing the public media audience to people who would normally be invisible as they address mental health issues within their community.”

Throughout the series, audiences will meet practitioners such as Shawna Murray-Browne, LCSW-C, an integrated psychotherapist on a quest to help people of color access ways of nurture, care, and healing; Paul Hoang, LCS, teaching the broader Vietnamese community empathetic mental healthcare; Lloyd Hale who went from being a convict to a peer support specialist living in recovery; the Khalil Center, looking at how it builds treatment processes around faith-based concepts; and Idris Mitchell shares how his bipolar disorder put him in an eternal pursuit of identity and defining personal beauty and joy; among others.

WORLD Channel, in conjunction with public media producer GBH in Boston hosted a special event [Decolonizing Mental Health: A Conversation Inspired by the WORLD Channel Series](#). This panel featured a wide-ranging panel of industry experts and advocates in discussion on the unique mental health care challenges faced by underrepresented communities and those that have been historically marginalized. This recorded [virtual panel discussion](#) can be watched on [WORLD Channel YouTube](#).

You can find the full [Decolonizing Mental Health](#) series on [worldchannel.org](#), WORLD's [YouTube Channel](#) and on the PBS App and [PBS Mystery of Mental Illness](#) site. Watch the [full YouTube playlist](#) and [read our synopsis](#). Follow @worldchannel and join the social conversations on the series with #MentalHealthPBS.

[Decolonizing Mental Health](#) is part of a new multiplatform initiative from GBH focused on destigmatizing mental illness and exploring issues surrounding mental health in science and society. The centerpiece of the initiative is [Mysteries of Mental Illness](#), a four-episode broadcast series presented in two-hour blocks, premiering June 22-23 from 9-11 pm Eastern on PBS (check local listings). The PBS [Mysteries of Mental Illness](#) initiative also encompasses outreach collaborations with national organizations and public television stations will offer additional ways for audiences to connect with the stories and support resources.

Funding for PBS *Mysteries of Mental Illness* is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Johnson & Johnson, the American Psychiatric Association Foundation, and Draper, and through the support of PBS viewers. Additional support for the *Decolonizing Mental Health* digital series was provided by the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

For more information and films, please visit [www.WORLDchannel.org/](#) or follow @worldchannel on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#). [Subscribe to the WORLD Channel newsletter](#) to get exclusive updates and subscribe to [WORLD's YouTube Channel](#) for streaming notifications.

### **About GBH**

GBH is the leading multiplatform creator for public media in America. As the largest producer of content for PBS and partner to NPR and PRX, GBH delivers compelling experiences, stories and information to audiences wherever they are. GBH produces digital and broadcast programming that engages, illuminates and inspires, through drama and science, history, arts, culture and journalism. GBH is the creator of such signature programs as MASTERPIECE, ANTIQUES ROADSHOW, FRONTLINE, NOVA, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE and *Arthur* and *Molly of Denali*, as well as GBH WORLD, a catalog of streaming series, podcasts and on-demand video. With studios and a newsroom headquartered in Boston, GBH reaches

across New England with GBH 89.7, Boston's Local NPR®; CRB Classical 99.5; and CAI, the Cape and Islands NPR® station. Dedicated to making media accessible to and representative of our diverse culture, GBH is a pioneer in delivering media to audience members who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind and visually impaired. With PBS LearningMedia, GBH creates curriculum- based digital content for educators nationwide. GBH's local programming includes *Boston Public Radio*, *Greater Boston*, *Stories from the Stage*, *Open Studio with Jared Bowen*, *Basic Black* and *High School Quiz Show*. GBH has been recognized with hundreds of the nation's premier broadcast, digital and journalism awards.

### **About CPB**

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private, nonprofit corporation created by Congress in 1967, is the steward of the federal government's investment in public broadcasting. It helps support the operations of more than 1,500 locally managed and operated public television and radio stations nationwide. CPB is also the largest single source of funding for research, technology and program development for public radio, television and related online services. For more information, visit [cpb.org](http://cpb.org), follow us on Twitter [@CPBmedia](https://twitter.com/CPBmedia), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CPBmedia) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cpb) and [subscribe](#) for other updates.

### **About PBS**

PBS, with more than 330 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and digital content. Each month, PBS reaches over 120 million people through television and 26 million people online, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature and public affairs; to hear diverse viewpoints; and to take front row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS' broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry's most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to PBS for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. Decades of research confirms that PBS' premier children's media service, PBS KIDS, helps children build critical literacy, math and social-emotional skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. Delivered through member stations, PBS KIDS offers high-quality educational content on TV – including a 24/7 channel, online at [pbskids.org](http://pbskids.org), via an array of mobile apps and in communities across America. More information about PBS is available at [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org), one of the leading dot-org websites on the internet, or by following [PBS on Twitter](#), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pbs) or through our [apps for mobile and connected devices](#). Specific program information and updates for press are available at [pbs.org/pressroom](http://pbs.org/pressroom) or by following [PBS Communications on Twitter](#).

### **About WORLD Channel**

WORLD shares the best of public media in news, documentaries and programming. WORLD's original series examine the issues and amplify the voices of those often ignored by mainstream media. The multicast 24/7 channel helps audiences understand conflicts, movements and cultures from around the globe. Its original work has won a Peabody Award, an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, a National News and Documentary Emmy Award and many others honoring diversity of content and makers. WORLD is carried by 189 member stations in markets representing over 73% of US TV households. Funding for WORLD Channel is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Wyncote Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts and Artworks. WORLD is produced by GBH in partnership with WNET and is distributed by American Public Television (APT). Find out more at [WORLDChannel.org](http://WORLDChannel.org).