



Generation Mental Health Awarded Transformational Service Contract from Wellcome to Launch ‘The Possibilities Collective’

Generation Mental Health is proud to announce it has been awarded a contract from [the Wellcome Trust](#)’s Lived Experience Innovation Fund to launch the Possibilities Collective: an innovative mental health research community and upskilling initiative designed by and for young people with lived experience of mental health challenges (YPWLE) around the world.

With this new funding, GenMH will implement an ambitious, multi-regional program that centers youth leadership, lived experience, and global equity in mental health research. The initiative will span five global regions—North America, South Asia, North Africa, East Africa, and West Africa—to foster a new generation of youth lived experience leaders in mental health research.

“This contract marks a pivotal moment in our mission to shift power in mental health research,” said Jaclyn Schess, Founder and CEO of GenMH. “The Collective will equip young people from underrepresented communities with the skills, resources, and networks needed to lead transformative change in their own contexts.”

Program Highlights

- **Experiential Learning:** Participants will access research internships, mentorship, and project grants tailored to their needs.
- **Self-Guided Learning Hub:** A multi-language, accessible web platform will provide research training, peer learning, and interactive educational tools.
- **Removing Barriers to Dissemination:** Through travel grants and a new Lived Experience Ethics Review Committee, YPWLE will gain access to academic publishing and conferences.
- **Partnerships:** Key collaborators include Mentor Services UK and UC Berkeley’s Innovations for Youth (i4Y) Hub, along with grassroots partners across target regions.
- **External consulting:** The Collective will offer an advisory practice for researchers and academic institutions looking to meaningfully involve YPWLE in research.

“This is about dismantling systemic barriers in research that have historically excluded youth and people with lived experience,” added Hannah Stewart, MPH, Chief Research and Knowledge Officer at GenMH. “At GenMH, we know that our communities are the experts in what research questions need to be answered and what community-based innovations need to be evaluated. We’re creating a platform where people can do just that: a space where knowledge flows from the ground up, and young leaders co-create the future of mental health research.”



“For someone like me, the Possibilities Collective does more than just invite us to the table - it hands us the tools to rebuild the table ourselves,” reflects Shruti Bora, GenMH Chief Development Officer. “Growing up in a militarized and marginalized region of Northeast India as an indigenous queer young person with psychosocial disability, I had no proper orientation to the research process, no roadmap for skill-building and no clear entry points into research opportunities. This isn’t just my experience, it’s a systemic issue affecting marginalized young people across LMICs. Late exposure to research without guidance leaves us with gaps in skills and the lingering question: ‘Where do I go from here?’ That’s why experiential learning is central to our Collective.”

The Possibilities Collective start up team has been pivotal in ensuring that the program truly reflects the needs of those it intends to impact. Shruti, who is also a member of the start-up team adds that “In co-creating this Collective, we drew on our own lived experiences at the intersections of marginalized identities in the Global South. We were deliberate in embedding diversity, equity, inclusion and justice at the heart of the program, and in designing decentralised governance structures that share power and decision-making and meaningfully center the leadership of the Global South in the youth-led lived experience landscape”.

GenMH has a proven track record of empowering YPWLE through fellowships, advocacy training and other youth-led programs. The Possibilities Collective builds on this foundation with a first-of-its-kind model that integrates community building, research capacity strengthening, and equitable access to dissemination platforms for YPWLE across the globe.

For more information, visit www.generationmentalhealth.org.

About Wellcome

Wellcome supports science to solve the urgent health challenges facing everyone. We support discovery research into life, health and wellbeing, and we’re taking on three worldwide health challenges: mental health, infectious disease and climate and health.