



**Akiko Hart**

**Chief Executive**

**National Survivor User Network**

## Candidate Statement

I have been appointed CEO of [NSUN](#), the National Survivor User Network. I currently work at [Mind in Camden](#), where I manage the Hearing Voices projects, setting up Hearing Voices peer support groups and networks in the community, inpatient settings, children and adolescent mental health services, prisons, forensic secure units and Immigration Removal Centres.

I have substantial non-executive experience: I am the Chair of [ISPS UK](#), which advocates for social and psychological approaches to psychosis, and I sit on the [HVN England](#) committee. As part of my work for the [English Hearing Voices Network](#), I co-wrote the [Alternative Mental Health Act Review](#). I am also on the Advisory Board of [the Institute for Medical Humanities](#) at Durham University. I have worked as the Director of [Mental Health Europe](#), and have a keen interest in the differences and overlaps in mental health provision in different countries.

Recent publications include this academic piece on the Recovery Narrative in mental health (<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11013-019-09623-y>), and this article on debates around diagnosis (<https://asylummagazine.org/2018/06/pursuing-choice-not-truth-debates-around-diagnosis-in-mental-health-by-akiko-hart/>).

I am passionate about creating dialogue between policy, practice and research in mental health, and I advocate for a rights-based approach to health. I believe that in order to create change on the ground, we need to centre the voices of people with lived experience. Throughout my work, I try to amplify experiences and perspectives which tend to be more marginalised, excluded or disempowered.