Reviewer’s report

Title: The importance of the concepts of disaster, catastrophe, violence, trauma and barbarism in defining posttraumatic stress disorder in clinical practice

Version: 2 Date: 23 July 2008

Reviewer: John David Kinzie

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have done a good job in increasing the literature review and addressing the major concerns that reviewers have. It reads more coherently as it currently is. I am more enthusiastic about its suitability now.

Discretionary Revisions

1. I still have reservations about the issue of whether criterion A is really that important, perhaps not in diagnosis, but clearly in treatment, i.e. if a person has nightmares, irritability, avoidance behaviors, and reexperiencing phenomena, and can't come up with an exact criteria of A, wouldn't most of us treat this person? On the other hand, the authors have tried to address this issue; I particularly liked their use of historical and etymological references to define their terms.

2. The word "barbarianism" still strikes me as somewhat arcane, but the authors have a point in using it, and it probably is acceptable.

Overall, I appreciate the effort they put into doing this.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.