



## May 2026 Community of Practice Newsletter

### RiVeR Project Education & Training Opportunities:

#### ▣▣Masters in Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence studies▣▣

We are delighted to announce the launch of a new **MSc in DSGBV Studies at DkIT**, with the first intake planned for September 2026. This pioneering programme, the first of its kind in Ireland, includes six micro-credentials (10 credits each), all of which can be undertaken individually:

- Certificate in Trauma Informed Practice for Domestic, Sexual & Gender-Based Violence Contexts
- Certificate in Theoretical, Policy and Legislative Context of Domestic, Sexual & Gender- Based Violence Studies
- Certificate in Advanced Studies in Coercive Control
- Certificate in Engaging with Perpetrators of Domestic, Sexual & Gender-Based Violence
- Certificate in Children & Adolescents in the Context of Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence
- Certificate in Sexual Violence, Abuse and Consent Studies



## **Masters in Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence studies**

### **Launch Event**

June 12<sup>th</sup> 2026  
9am, DkIT Campus,  
Dundalk.

**Margaret Loftus** is an empowering speaker, survivor advocate, and voice for women navigating life after domestic violence.

□□We are delighted to invite you to attend the **launch of MSc. in DSGBV studies**□□ on Friday **June 12th at 09.00hrs.**

The new programme will be launched by **Margaret Loftus**

If you would like to attend the launch please complete the form in link below

**Register to attend the launch event**

*(Please note we are also holding an In Their Shoes workshop after the launch - separate registration)*

**We will also host an information evening Webinar for the MSc. details to follow**

### **Now Enrolling** □□□

Applications are open for the September 2026 intake of the ‘**Certificate in the Fundamentals of Understanding and Responding to Domestic, Sexual & Gender-Based Violence**’ programme.

**Apply here**

Applications are also open for the 9 week Micro-Credential **Certificate in the Fundamentals of Coercive Control** which will start in **September 2026**.

▣ **Applications Now Open for Coercive Control Micro-Credential at DkIT**

This 9-week blended programme will equip participants with a shared understanding of:

- ▣ The offence of Coercive Control and the legislative framework
- ▣ Behaviours and tactics used by perpetrators
- ▣ Risks and impacts on victims/survivors
- ▣ Wider systemic implications

**Who should apply?**

Professionals working with victims of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV)/Coercive Control, including:

- Frontline DSGBV service providers
- Members of An Garda Síochána
- Nurses, Midwives, Social Workers, Psychotherapists, and related roles

**Programme Details:**

- ▣ Start Date: 22nd September
- ▣ Duration: 9 weeks
- ▣ Delivery method: Blended
- ▣ Fee: €495

[For more information click here](#)

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**Registration for In Their Shoes workshop 12th June 2026**

The DkIT RiVeR Project will host a fifth 'In Their Shoes' workshop on Friday **12th June 2026**. (Same day as MSc Launch)

The morning session involves 'In Their Shoes' interactive exercise for **all** participants, the afternoon is specifically for 'In Their Shoes' **train the trainer** workshop.

[To register click here](#)

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**RiVeR Project Events & Activities:**



**St. Nicholas's Church, Dundalk Open Day: The RiVeR Project Lead, Dr Kathleen Nallen** was delighted to be asked to speak on the opening day at St. Nicholas's Church, Dundalk, which was themed 'Marginalised Women'. Nearly €850,000 has been allocated from the Louth PeacePlus fund to carry out a comprehensive programme of refurbishment and upgrades. The works are designed to significantly expand its usability for concerts, cultural performances, creative activity and educational events. **Click here to read more:** <https://www.independent.ie/county/louth/dundalk-news/historic-dundalk-green-church-to-undergo-major-renovation-in-cross-border-funded-project/a/130011696.html>



**1 Billion Rising Event:** DkIT and Women's Aid Dundalk joined forces to deliver a powerful performance marking the occasion. Staff and students, together with members of the wider community, came together in a meaningful show of solidarity against violence towards women. Coordinated by Women's Aid Dundalk, the DkIT **RiVeR Project**, and RESPECT at DkIT, the event united representatives from across the community in a shared stand against gender-based violence.



**Sexual Assault Awareness Month:** DkIT marked Sexual Assault Awareness Month with a campus-wide awareness campaign. A sincere thank you to Rape Crisis North East for hosting pop-up stands and providing valuable information to students and staff. Special appreciation also goes to our Students' Union, who proudly wore denim to help raise awareness and show their support.



**Go Purple Day: The RiVeR Project,** the Students' Union, and the RESPECT initiative at Dundalk Institute of Technology, in partnership with **Women's Aid Dundalk** and members of **An Garda Síochána** at Dundalk Garda Station, hosted a coffee morning to mark Go Purple Day. The event brought together DkIT staff, students, and community stakeholders to raise awareness of domestic abuse and highlight the supports available to those affected by it.

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## RiVeR Project Community Events



### Roll out of In Their Shoes workshops by other organisations:

It is a great source of pride for the **RiVeR Project** team to see individuals who have completed the 'Train the Trainer' workshop in DkIT, roll out the workshops to their own and other organisations. Thanks to Garda Sergeant Grace Rogers from Tullamore Garda Station for sharing the following information with us following their multiagency workshop in the Civil Defence offices in Portlaoise.

The participants were greeted on the day by the Chief Superintendent of the Division, Anthony Lonergan. The workshop was attended by the Superintendent for both Laois and Offaly and assistance in facilitating the workshop was provided by Carmel Hill from Laois Domestic Abuse Services. A number of agencies were in attendance including TUSLA, Laois and Offaly CoCo, Tullamore Rape Crisis, HSE addiction services, national ambulance services, fire services, civil defence and probation services. We got extremely positive feedback following the event and everyone left with greater understanding of the challenges victim survivors face.



**Women's Aid Dundalk:** had staff members attending numerous events held locally to mark Go Purple Day 2026. First, there was a coffee morning at Dundalk Institute of Technology, hosted by the **RiVeR Project**, DKIT Students' Union and the RESPECT initiative, in partnership with Women's Aid Dundalk and members of An Garda Síochána at Dundalk Garda Station. DkIT staff, students, and community stakeholders attended to raise awareness of domestic abuse and highlight the supports available to those affected by it. People who arrived wearing the colour purple also received free cupcakes.

The day's events also included an awareness-raising event at the Louth County Hospital. Organised by a GP liaison nurse, it was an important example of community partnership between Women's Aid Dundalk and other relevant entities and groups.

The day's events concluded with members of An Garda Síochána and Women's Aid Dundalk engaging with the public at the Marshes Shopping Centre to explain the purpose and reasoning behind Go Purple Day, explaining what we do and letting them know how to find further information about the available services.



**Building Safety: Interagency Innovation for Domestic Abuse.** The Garda Síochána Domestic Abuse Coordinator team in DRM North, Dublin/Louth Safe Families and the HSE safe guarding team hosted an excellent multi-agency 2 day conference the City North Hotel. It would be great to see this become an annual event.



**The RiVeR Project** was delighted to support the recent launch of the **Dublin Rape Crisis Centre 2025 Annual Report**. They also showed a short video featuring some of the survivors they worked with in 2025. The report and video can be viewed here: [Dublin Rape Crisis Centre Annual Report 2025 | Dublin Rape Crisis Centre](#)

[Click here to read report](#)

## Up Coming Events Book Now!

### Barnardos

Spring Childhood Domestic Violence and Abuse (CDVA) Community of Practice - **Safe & Seen Strengthening our CDVA Responses for LGBTQ+ and Youth..**

**This event will be:**

**Location:** Online, via Zoom

**Date:** Wednesday 10th June 2026

**Time:** 10am – 12.20pm

We are delighted to have two keynotes:

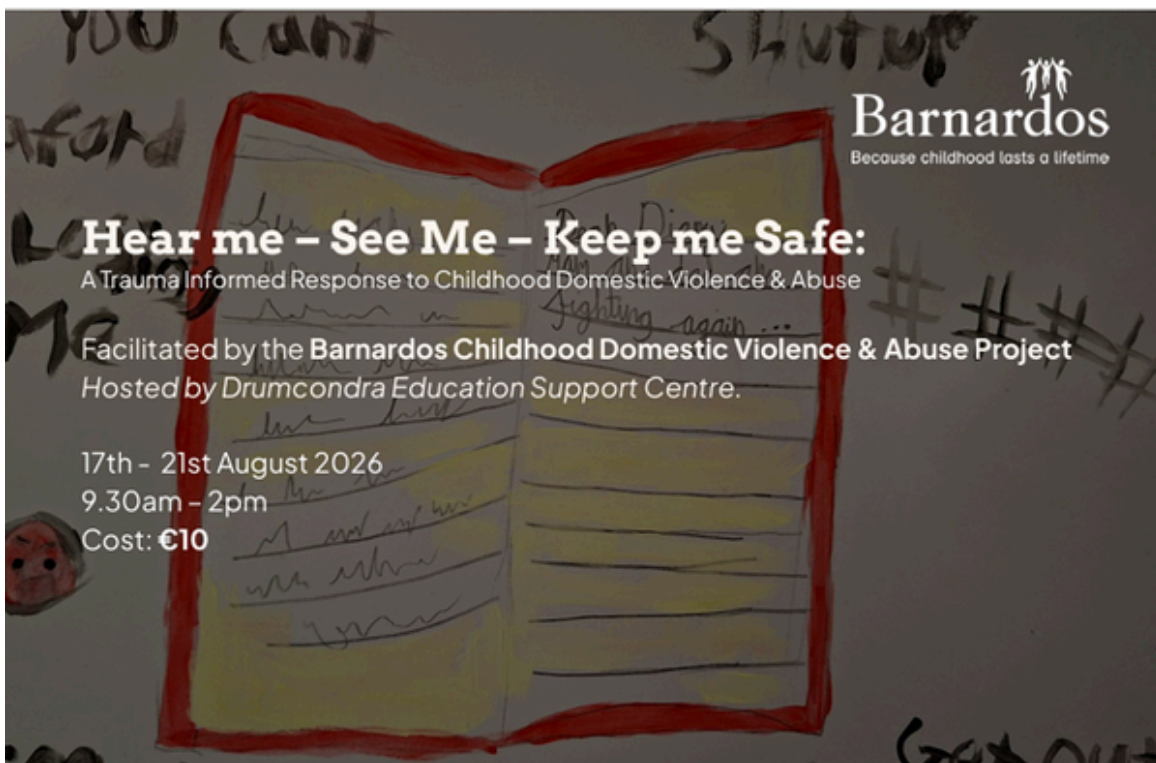
- **Carmel Walsh (She/Her)** – is the Director of youth services with Belong to LGBTQ+ Youth. Belong To, is the national LGBTQ+ youth organisation in Ireland. Since 2003, Belong To has grown from a youth project into a unique national services and advocacy organisation with and for LGBTQ+ children and young people. Youth services, which inform our research, education work and a development approach, enable us to provide solution-based advocacy at an institutional and public level.
- **Sarah Lawson (She/Her)** - Youth Participation Manager with LGBT Youth Scotland. LGBT Youth Scotland, are Scotland's national charity for LGBTQ+ young people, aged 13-25. They support young people in all aspects of their lives through the provision of youth work, and they support young people to use their voice to create change in equality and human rights. LGBT Youth Scotland, 'also host 'The LGBT Domestic Abuse Project'. This project, helps to raise awareness of LGBTQ+ people's experiences of domestic abuse and to support professionals and service providers to improve service responses to LGBTQ+ people.
- **Empower Kids** – creative input.

You can register for this event here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/-qMbu2sQROKMJrdvdVZ90w>

**\*Note:** *Please save confirmation email to your calendar, so you can easily access it on the day of the event.*

We are delighted that this event is taking place during Pride Month in Ireland (1–30 June). We believe it is important to mark this occasion and to reaffirm our commitment to inclusion, visibility and equality for LGBTQ+ children, young people and families.

[Click here to register](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/-qMbu2sQROKMJrdvdVZ90w)



We are delighted to announce that Barnardos will be delivering a upcoming **Summer Course for Teachers on Childhood Domestic Violence and Abuse.**

Barnardos will deliver a five-day, in-person training hosted by the Drumcondra Education Centre for primary and post-primary teachers. The course aims to build teachers' knowledge and confidence to recognise the signs and impacts of Childhood Domestic Violence and Abuse (CDVA), understand how it can overlap with other adversities (ACE's), and support teachers to respond appropriately within their professional role while promoting inclusive classroom practice. This course is informed by the voice of children and young people who have lived with domestic violence and abuse.

**Title:** Hear Me – See Me – Keep me Safe: A Trauma Informed response to Childhood Domestic Violence and Abuse

**Dates:** 17th August to 21st August 2026

**Venue:** Drumcondra Education Centre

If you are interested in this course, or know a colleague who may be, please feel free to circulate this email. Registration can be completed via the following link:

<https://ecdumcondra-courses.com/summer-courses/1723-summer-course-2026-hear-me-see-me-keep-me-safe.html>

This course has been approved by the Department and includes an entitlement to Extra Personal Vacation (EPV) days for primary school teachers.

[Register here](#)

## HSE Training:

The HSE Human Trafficking training programme is available on HSELand.

The programme provides staff with practical knowledge through two CPD-accredited modules:

- Module 1 – Awareness
- Module 2 – Indicators

Each module is accredited with 0.5 CPD hours in line with NMBI guidance @NMBI\_ie

<https://healthservice.hse.ie/staff/training-and-development/national-social-inclusion-office-training-programmes/human-trafficking-training-programme/>

[Click here for HSELand](#)



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