



Community of Practice Newsletter

March 2025

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## RiVeR Project Shortlisted for Education Award



The RiVeR Project is delighted to announce that it has been shortlisted for the national [Education Awards 2025](#) **Best Collaboration Project**

### Best Collaboration Project

#### FINALISTS:

- Atlantic Technological University & Ulster University
- Drogheda Institute of Further Education & Amazon Web Services
- Dundalk Institute of Technology - RiVeR Project
- Galway University Hospital & University of Galway
- MSLETB - The National Sales Apprenticeship
- MTU Cork & DELL Technologies
- Munster Technological University & University of Limerick- REEdI Project, VIRTUE Network
- North West Regional College, ATU Donegal, & FE Colleges in Northern Ireland
- Queen's University Belfast - AIPEC
- University of Limerick & Vodafone Foundation

The winner will be announced at **Awards Night 2025** on **May 8th, 2025** at **Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry.**

## New RiVeR Project website

The **DkIT RiVeR Projects** new Website is **Now LIVE!**  
We're excited to announce our new website is up and running at [www.riverproject.ie](http://www.riverproject.ie)

Check out the recordings from our recent Conference on Coercive Control under **“Education and Training”** → **“Training Materials”** (including a quick 10-minute highlights video!)



Want to make a difference?

Join our Community of Practice by using the **“Contact us”** link on our website. Together, we can create meaningful change.

Visit us today – [CLICK HERE](#)

## A busy events schedule for RiVeR Project Masters student

**March 7th** was a very busy day for RiVeR Project MSc. student **Ester Marie Balgová**.

Ester, a native of the Czech Republic, participated in a DkIT community event to mark **International Women's Day**. Hosted by **Anna Daly**, the intimate fireside chat delved into the personal experiences of DkIT international female staff and students as they participated in insightful and engaging conversations in a relaxed setting.



Later that day Ester attended **an event hosted by DkIT** where she met with a delegation from the **Czech Academy of Sciences** and the **Embassy of the Czech Republic in Dublin**.



*Ester is pictured with Ambassador H. E. Pavel Vošalík, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Dublin and Dr. Diarmuid O'Callaghan, DkIT President.*



**Connect, Challenge, Change – Working in partnership towards  
Ending Violence Against Women and Girls  
in Newry, Mourne and Down**



**Stakeholder Conference,  
Tuesday 25 March 2025  
Canal Court Hotel Newry**

The RiVeR Project were delighted to support this excellent conference to hear from leading experts and share ideas to effect change and foster conversations on creating a safer place for women and girls.

The event featured inspiring keynote speakers, insightful discussions and valuable networking opportunities. Delegates explored challenges, solutions and collective actions to create safer communities, change attitudes and drive meaningful action in the fight against violence towards women and girls.



## Now Enrolling

Applications are open for the September 2025 intake of the 'Certificate in the Fundamentals of Understanding and Responding to Domestic, Sexual & Gender-Based Violence' programme.

The RiVeR project is offering scholarships which covers full fees to five students.



To apply [CLICK HERE](#)

## Coming Soon



“Save the Date” May 1st 2025

*Insights into Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Podcast Series Hosted by DkIT RiVeR Project*

The RiVeR Project at Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT) is proud to announce the upcoming launch of its new podcast series, Insights into Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence on the **1st of May 2025**. This series will feature conversations with experts, advocates and victim-survivors of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV), exploring a broad range of experiences, challenges and innovative

responses. Hosted by the RiVeR Project team at DkIT, the podcast aims to raise awareness, share knowledge, and foster informed dialogue across communities and sectors. Episodes will be made available in both video and audio formats via the RiVeR Project website, the DkIT YouTube channel, Spotify, and all official RiVeR Project social media platforms.

Stay tuned and be sure to follow us to catch every episode as it airs.

[CLICK HERE](#)

## Other Events and Notices From Our Community of Practice

### SERVICE UPDATE: CIRCLE OF SECURITY PARENTING PROGRAMME



**Drogheda Women's and Children's Refuge Centre are excited to announce that the Children's Services Team will run the Circle of Security Parenting programme.**

This programme is designed to help parents build stronger, more secure bonds with their children and is now available to those who may benefit from additional support.

**The Circle of Security Parenting programme** is an evidence-based initiative **focused on enhancing parenting skills** by helping adults understand and respond to their children's emotional needs. It offers guidance in building healthy attachment, emotional growth, and positive behaviours.



## CALLING ALL SCHOOLS AND YOUTH GROUPS!



### Drogheda Women's and Children's Refuge Centre will be delivering the CourAGEus Project Workshops again in 2025!

These workshops are designed to educate young people about healthy and unhealthy relationships, consent, red flags in relationships, and how to stay safe in abusive teen relationships.

The CourAGEus Project provides an invaluable opportunity for schools and youth groups to engage in important conversations around these crucial topics, helping teens navigate relationships with confidence and awareness.

If you're interested in having the **CourAGEus Project** workshops delivered to your group in 2025, we would love to hear from you!

For more information or to book a session, please contact Michelle on

**0858011582**

## PARENT SUPPORT CLINIC FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN AFFECTED BY DSGBV

**In identifying a gap and providing much-needed support to mothers and children living with DSGBV, DWCR developed the Parent Support Clinic.**

Since its launch in **May 2024**, this service has already supported 55 mothers through 249 interventions, offering practical advice, emotional support, and resources **to help navigate the challenges of living with DSGBV.**

This clinic provides a safe, supportive space where mothers and children can receive guidance, access supports for their children or simply have a confidential conversation with a caring professional.



DWCR team attended the SICAP International Women's Day Event in Carlingford



DWCR supports the Launch of the “Hardest Stories” Campaign by Minister Jim O’ Callaghan

[CLICK HERE](#)

Susan Keogh (CEO) attended the DSGBV forum in Dublin where she met Minister Jm O’Callaghan and Stephanie O’Keeffe CEO CUAN

Key points of focus from Minister O’Callaghan (DOJ) & Stephanie O’Keeffe (CEO CUAN) – 24.03.25

- Emphasis from CUAN on Refuge Development and Safe Home model;
- Important focus on pathways for women from Refuge;
- Review of guardianship in relation to murder convictions;
- Reviewing legislation on counselling notes. That the legislation was not doing what it was set out to do and it would have to be reviewed to tackle notes being used against the victim;
- Establishing a children’s support advocate to have cases where children are victims or perpetrators heard within a year.

HEA

AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS  
HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY

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