



**COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE NEWSLETTER**

**March 2026**

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# New Micro-Credential on Coercive Control starts in DkIT

The first Certificate in the Fundamentals of Coercive Control programme in Ireland started on 10th March with 21 students from a diverse range of backgrounds taking part. This level 8, 5 credit programme is delivered in a blended manner over 9 weeks.

[Certificate in the Fundamentals of Coercive Control | DkIT](#)



# International Women's Day at DIFE

The RiVeR Project were delighted to join Community of Practice members to Celebrate International Women's Day.

Drogheda Institute of Further Education (DIFE) pulled out all the stops as large numbers of staff and students donned purple for the day and decorated DIFE to show their solidarity for the event.



The Mayor of Drogheda Councillor Michelle Hall and her colleague Councillor Ejiro O'Hare Stratton hosted a Sunday afternoon event of inspiration, empowerment and fun in the civic offices. It brought together a vibrant community for engaging talks, food and entertaining music.





The RiVeR Project was delighted to support the launch of the excellent “OUR TAKE” Youth Peer Education Project **Premiere Screening 7 Short Films** in the Arts Centre, Drogheda.

The project is funded by Healthy Ireland through the Children and Young People’s Services Committees in Louth and Meath and by the North Eastern Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force. The project was designed and coordinated by the Office of Youth Work in LMETB.

[Click here to Read the Full Press Release](#)

## One Billion Rising event at DkIT

On March 26th, RESPECT | DkIT and The RiVeR Project were proud to collaborate with Women’s Aid Dundalk to host this year’s One Billion Rising event on campus. The event brought together students, staff, and members of the wider community to stand united against gender-based violence.

One Billion Rising began as a global call to action following the statistic that one in three women worldwide will experience physical or sexual violence in her lifetime—amounting to one billion women and girls. Since launching in 2013, the movement has grown into the world’s largest initiative dedicated to ending violence against women, with activists in more than 200 countries taking part each year.

#DKIT

1pm, 26th March, Civic Square

**1 BILLION RISING 2026**  
RISE FOR OUR BODIES, OUR EARTH, OUR FUTURE



Step up, Step in,  
Step together...

...against gender  
based violence.

Join us in DkIT at 1pm on Thursday 26th March for a One Billion Rising event in partnership with Women’s Aid Dundalk. Step up, step in time, and stand in solidarity with survivors.

DkIT is proud to collaborate with Women’s Aid Dundalk and the RiVeR Project to host this year’s One Billion Rising event on campus. The event will bring together students, staff, and members of the wider community to stand united against gender-based violence.

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Join us on DkIT’s campus as we dance in solidarity with survivors in Ireland and across the globe. No dance experience is needed—just come along and follow the lead dancers’ steps.

#DKIT

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Step up, Step in, Step together...  
Against gender based violence.

**WOMEN'S AID DUNDALK**  
24-Hour Helpline: 042-9333244

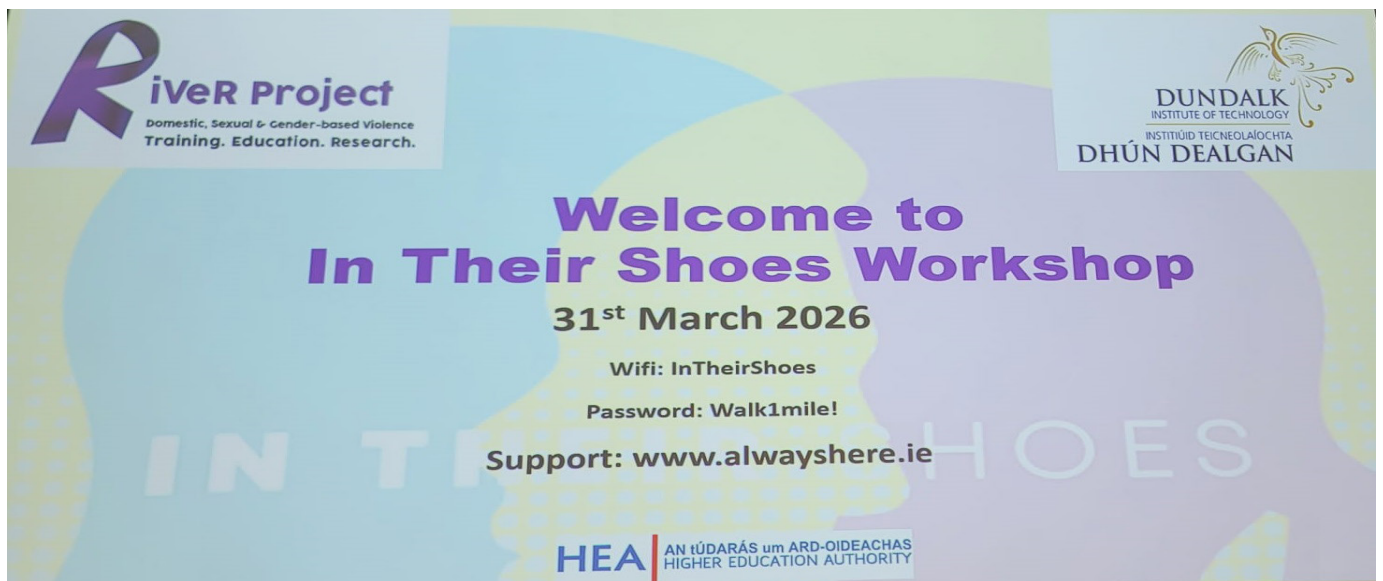


## DkIT RiVeR Project hosts Fourth 'In Their Shoes' workshop

The DkIT RiVeR Project hosted a fourth '**In Their Shoes**' workshop on 31st March 2026. The workshops and toolkits are funded by the RiVeR Project (supported by the Higher Education Authority).

'**In Their Shoes**' is an interactive toolkit that has been adapted, with permission, by the DkIT RiVeR Project from the original United States version of 'In Her Shoes' to make it more reflective of modern Irish society. This interactive exercise is designed to help participants understand the challenges that victims/survivors of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV) experience in their daily lives.

**Keep an eye out for a date for a fifth and final 'In Their Shoes' workshop in May/June.**





## Other Events and Notices From Our Community of Practice



Men's Aid Support Services has now commenced a dedicated support clinic for male victim/survivors of Domestic Violence and Coercive Control in Trim Courthouse.

This new clinic will provide a safe space for men to talk, access practical support, learn about pathways to safety, safety planning and court information on their legal options.

Men experiencing domestic abuse can often feel isolated, ashamed, or unsure where to turn. This clinic is about making support for male victim/survivors more visible, more accessible, and ensuring men know they will be listened to and helped in a respectful and non-judgemental way.

To book a face-to-face appointment in Trim court contact Men's Aid helpline on **01 5543811** and speak to one of our trauma informed, qualified support workers.

Men's Aid helpline **01 5543811** is available from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, offering practical information, support options and a listening ear to male victim/survivors of Domestic Violence and Coercive Control.

You can also contact Men's Aid by emailing [hello@mensaid.ie](mailto:hello@mensaid.ie)

Breaking The Taboo Interagency Network held their interagency network lunch in DkIT on March 30th.



Riadas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Amas chomhoibriste ag  
an Aontas Eorpach  
Co-Funded by the  
European Union



LOUTH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT  
Supporting Communities, Families, Enterprise & the Environment

# Breaking The Taboo

## Interagency Network Lunch

### Expanding the Network Across County Louth


Are you interested in reducing the stigma of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (DSGBV) in Louth?

Is your organisation or group working to support people affected by DSGBV?

Join us for an interagency network lunch to connect with others committed to creating change.

 Monday, 30 March 2026

 Dundalk Institute of Technology,  
Boardroom in Whitaker building  
Eircode: A91 K584 - [Getting To DkIT | DkIT](#)

 10.00-2.00pm



Come along to:

- Meet members of the Drogheda-based Breaking the Taboo Network
- Learn about the purpose and aims of the network
- Hear about future plans to expand across County Louth
- Connect with organisations and groups working in this space
- Be part of a growing movement for collective action

Together we can reduce stigma, strengthen collaboration,  
and improve community responses to DSGBV.

Lunch is provided.

Please register with Amina, email [amina.moustafa@lldc.ie](mailto:amina.moustafa@lldc.ie)  
or Nairin Coghlan, 087 3472643



# Women's Aid Dundalk

Many community groups organised International Women's Day events to benefit Women's Aid Dundalk, and we are very grateful for the ongoing support. They included an International Women's Day Coffee Morning at The Imperial Hotel, Dundalk on 5 March, an International Women's Day Breakfast organised by Craobh Rua Youth Project on the following day, the "Come Here, Let Me Fix Your Crown" International Women's Day Event at the Dolmen Centre, Omeath, organised by Jenn Fitzgerald and Omeath District Development on 8 March and a performed reading of "The Dead" by an all-female ensemble cast at Roe River Books, Dundalk, organised by Blackbird Theatre on 8 March. Several of our staff members came to these events to show support, and we welcomed these opportunities to spread the word about our services and grow our network.

Women's Aid Dundalk also had two representatives at the Community Dialogues on Migration and Integration event on 19 March at the Fairways Hotel in Dundalk. Organised by the Community Engagement Team within the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, it was part of an effort to seek feedback from across all 31 local-authority areas about numerous matters related to migration, integration and explored practical steps to build shared communities of Irish and non-Irish residents.

## Women's Aid Dundalk new refuge

We are also very excited that work has begun on our new refuge. This development has been a long time coming and the result of years of hard work behind the scenes. Our staff are anticipating moving into it in 2027 and significantly increasing our capacity to assist women and children affected by domestic violence.



Email: [info@riverproject.ie](mailto:info@riverproject.ie)