



iveR Project

**Domestic, Sexual & Gender-based Violence
Training. Education. Research.**

**COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE
NEWSLETTER**

May 2025



RiVeR Project launches its new Podcast series

On May 1st the RiVeR Project team were delighted to launch their new podcast series 'Insights into Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence'.

The collaborative podcast series has been put together through the extensive Community of Practice network that has been built up by the RiVeR Project team and features conversations with experts, advocates and victim/survivors of DSGBV, exploring a broad range of experiences, challenges and innovative responses. The team behind the RiVeR Project is constantly evolving to find new ways to communicate and reach as wide an audience as possible and challenging themselves to be innovative in responding to the widespread problem of DSGBV.

DkIT RiVeR Project Podcast series launch

*Insights into Domestic, Sexual and
Gender-Based Violence*

May 1st 2025

Wifi: RiVeR 2025 #RiVeRProjectPodcast #dkit

HEA AN tOIRIAS um ARD-OIDEACHAS
HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY

**School of Health
& Science**



The launch of the podcast series was marked by an event, **hosted by journalist, broadcaster and author Alison O'Connor**, which featured a panel of experts in the area including:

Detective Sergeant Laura Sweeney from the National Domestic Abuse Unit, **CEO of MOVE Ireland, Dr. Michelle Walsh**, who recorded a podcast with her colleague Lisa Brown;

Annmari Kennedy from the Rape Crisis North East, who was one of three from the Rape Crisis North East who took part in their podcast;

Karl Heller from Men's Aid Ireland also joined the panel to discuss the Podcast recorded by **Kathrina Bentley, their former CEO**.



Eight podcasts have been released to date with a new episode released every two weeks, they are available in both video and audio formats on the following links:

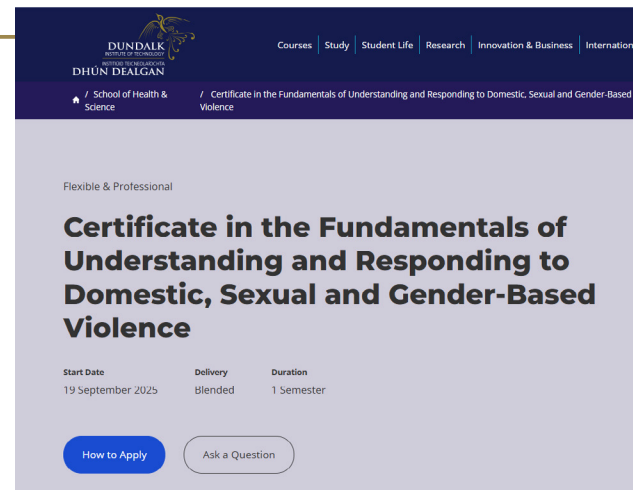


Now Enrolling

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. Deadline for application for Scholarships is June 18, 2025.

To learn more about the impact of this programme read the latest testimonial below:



The screenshot shows the Dundalk University website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Courses, Study, Student Life, Research, Innovation & Business, and International. Below this, the Dundalk University logo is displayed, along with the text 'DHUN DEALGAN'. The main content area features the title 'Certificate in the Fundamentals of Understanding and Responding to Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence' under the heading 'Flexible & Professional'. Below the title, there is a table with three columns: Start Date, Delivery, and Duration. The Start Date is '19 September 2025', the Delivery is 'Blended', and the Duration is '1 Semester'. At the bottom of the section, there are two buttons: 'How to Apply' and 'Ask a Question'.

| Start Date | Delivery | Duration |
|-------------------|----------|------------|
| 19 September 2025 | Blended | 1 Semester |

To apply [CLICK HERE](#)



Fintan CORCORAN,
Inspector An Garda Síochána

“As an Inspector in An Garda Síochána with responsibility for Domestic Violence and Child Protection, completing the Certificate in the Fundamentals of Understanding and Responding to Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence at DkIT has had a positive impact on my role.

This programme is particularly valuable for anyone whose work brings them into contact with victims of domestic, sexual, or gender-based violence (DSGBV). The course offers a strong foundation in understanding the key principles, concepts, and theories related to DSGBV, all through a trauma-informed lens. The course provided me with up-to-date knowledge, practical case studies, and essential terminology, which have enhanced how I approach my work in this area. Some key topics that I found beneficial to my role were coercive control, the psycho-social impact of DSGBV on children and adolescents, and the importance of trauma-informed approaches. The course also highlighted the importance of self-care in this challenging line of work, which is often overlooked but essential. The practical tools, knowledge, and connections I have gained from the both the Lecturers and my fellow students on the programme have been invaluable in my day-to-day responsibilities. I would highly recommend this course to any professional working in DSGBV-related fields - it offers both academic knowledge and real-world applications that can make a genuine difference in your area of responsibility.”

DkIT receives Bronze Athena Swan renewal

DkIT receives Bronze Athena Swan renewal in recognition of the Institute's continued commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion

Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT) has been awarded its second international Athena SWAN Bronze Award by AdvanceHE in recognition of its commitment to advancing gender equality in academia, and in promoting diversity and inclusion for staff and students in higher education. The Athena Swan Ireland Charter offers a framework for progressing gender equality in higher education and research. It is run by Advance HE, which has worked in partnership with the sector for 10 years,

supported by the Higher Education Authority.

The renewal of the prestigious award – first achieved by DkIT in 2021 is a testament to the Institute's continued commitment to advancing gender equality and having an inclusive culture among staff and students.

The panel commended a range of good practices across the institute from the submission, including **The RiVeR project**.

Commending DkIT's renewal of the award, Sarah FINK, Head of Athena Swan Ireland, said:

“ This Bronze Athena Swan award highlights the fantastic commitment of Dundalk Institute of Technology in bringing about change through impactful and sustainable gender equality initiatives in higher education across Ireland. Congratulations to all those who work so hard to achieve and sustain this recognition.”



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

IN THEIR SHOES' TRAINING EVENT

Please continue to visit the River Project website, particularly the 'Upcoming Events' section, for updates and further information regarding the exact date and details of this event.

GO PURPLE DAY



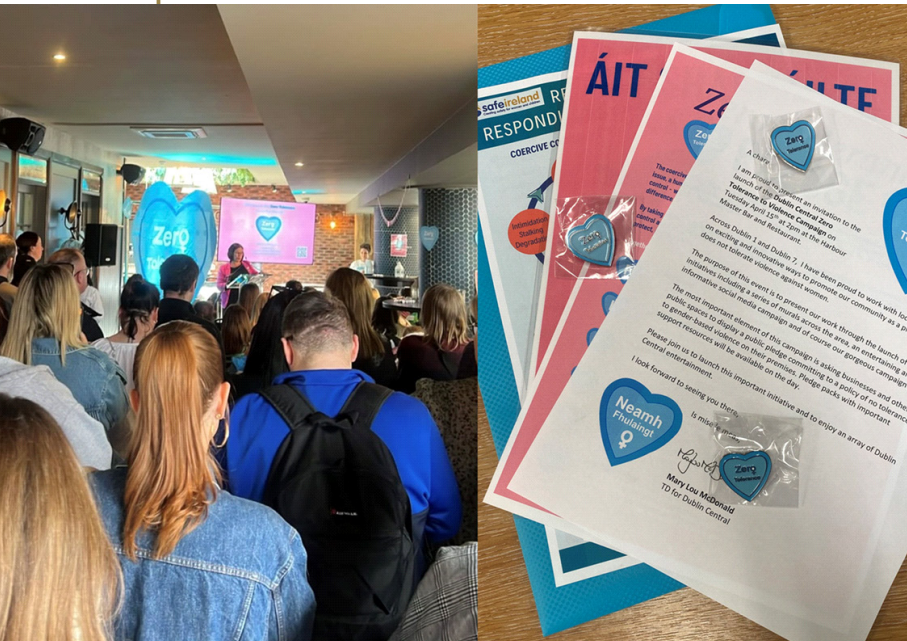
The RiVeR Project was delighted to partner with **RESPECT #DkIT**, students union DkIT and An Garda Síochána for the annual 'Go purple day' to create awareness of Domestic Abuse. They were joined by staff and students from across the campus who showed their support for this really important initiative and also enjoyed coffee and cupcakes!



Other Events and Notices From Our Community of Practice

DUBLIN CENTRAL WOMEN'S GROUP COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

The RiVeR Project was delighted to be invited to attend the launch of Dublin Central Women's Group Community Campaign: **ZERO TOLERANCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**



It was great to hear from so many inspirational people including community workers, activists and business owners. Nicola Kelly, a student on DkIT's 'Certificate in the Fundamentals of Understanding and Responding to Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence' programme spoke about her involvement in the Dublin Central Women's Group Community Campaign. There were also very special performances by an array of Dublin Central talent.

MEN'S AID IRELAND CLG ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW CEO

Men's Aid Ireland, the national agency which serves as the 'Voice for Men, their Children and Families' who experience domestic violence and coercive control, has appointed **Shane KELLY** as their new **CEO**. Shane has most recently served as CEO with Drogheda Homeless Aid (DHA).

"We welcome Shane Kelly to Men's Aid," said **Seamus Scott, Chairperson of the Board**. Shane's extensive experience and passion for our mission make him a strong leader to guide our organisation towards growth. We wish to expand the remit of Men's Aid Ireland in the provision of support and guidance for those who seek our services". Shane holds a BA in Psychoanalytical Studies.

These services include a national helpline, counselling support, provision of helpful



“ I am honoured to join Men's Aid as CEO, I look forward to working with the dedicated team to advance our mission and make a meaningful difference in the lives of men facing challenges”

information, court support and education programmes for a wide range of organisations to raise awareness and increase levels of knowledge, amongst key practitioners, around domestic violence and coercive behaviour. We currently provide a non-judgemental listening ear and support to over 8,000 outreach and engagement contacts per annum.

The need for support is growing and we look to meet that challenge, working with other partner organisations where possible and taking every opportunity to integrate what we do and to provide improved services.

Shane is currently CEO with Drogheda Homeless Aid (DHA). Previously, he was CEO with the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI), where he made a significant contribution in respect of fundraising and increasing their membership.

He has held leadership positions with the Irish Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (IACP), and he has run his own counselling & psychotherapy clinic. He has also worked in 2024 as Director of Operations for Colm Markey MEP (FF), for Nina Carbery (FG) MEP who took the seat for Midland's northwest and for Senator Alison Comyn (FF), who was nominated to Seanad Eireann, by Taoiseach Michael Martin, in February this year.

Shane will commence his position on 3rd June 2025.

Men's Aid is

a nonprofit organisation dedicated to supporting men in need through advocacy, education, and comprehensive support services. Men's Aid has been committed to addressing the unique challenges faced by men and promoting their well-being. Men's Aid is a registered Charity which is supported largely by statutory funding from Cuan, the dedicated agency committed to tackling domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.



For more information about Men's Aid and its services, please visit

mensaid.ie

AN EXCITING COLLABORATION BETWEEN MOVE IRELAND AND THE INVICTUS PROJECT DUNDALK

The Invictus Project is funded by the International Fund for Ireland. We are based in the greater Muirhevnamor area.

The project was established in 2019. We have successfully developed a strong women and young women's group in the area. We continue to develop opportunities for the women.

The group of 10 young women who meet each week and have took part in various training programme e.g. drug awareness, restorative justice training and Youth leadership course along with many more courses.



The Invictus project actively engages with the community in an ongoing manner. We know the needs, we know the people, and they know us. Our premises is a place people know they can go to for advice or support at any time. Our door is always open and open to all. Our practical work on the ground,

delivering services to both the young and the older, is of huge importance as it is aim of the overall project to better the lives of the people of the area.

Recently we have engaged with MOVE Ireland to deliver to our Women's group, 4 x half day sessions in 'Enhancing

Staff's capacity to respond to Domestic Violence', with Lisa Brown (National Director Move) and Geordie McAteer (Facilitator and Supervisor with MOVE)

Training took place at **'Dundalk Counselling Centre'**, a brilliant, modern and welcoming venue.



HEA

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