



Community of Practice Newsletter

September 2024

WELCOME TO A NEW COHORT OF STUDENTS
on the 'Certificate in the Fundamentals of Understanding
and Responding to Domestic, Sexual & Gender-Based Violence'
programme.



On 20th September, DkIT was delighted to welcome students from all over the country, from a range of backgrounds, to the newly validated '**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 on each intake until December 2025.

Applications will open shortly for the January 2025 intake

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The DkIT RiVeR Project Annual Community of Practice Conference will take place on Friday 17th January 2025. The Conference theme is ‘Keeping the spotlight on Coercive Control: A multi-agency approach’.

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- **Dr. Stephanie O’Keeffe CEO CUAN**
- **Davina James-Hanman OBE, Independent Violence Against Women Consultant**
- **Dr. Susan Lagdon Senior Lecturer in Psychology, Ulster University**
- **Detective Chief Superintendent Colm Noonan, Garda National Protective Services Bureau**

ABSTRACTS ARE INVITED FOR BOTH ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS SHOWCASING WORK IN ANY OF THE THREE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES RELATED TO THE AREA OF DOMESTIC, SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (DSGBV):

- **TRAINING**
- **EDUCATION**
- **RESEARCH**

Please click links below for further details:

[Abstract for Oral Presentation Click Here](#)

[Abstract for Poster Presentation Click Here](#)

New RiVeR Project Steering Committee member

SIOBHAN MOLLOY is the Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment Prevention and Response Manager in DkIT and has recently joined the RiVeR Project steering committee.

This role is responsible for the implementation of the Safe, Respectful, Supportive and Positive: Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment in Irish Higher Education Institutions Initiative which was published by the Government in April 2019. Siobhan’s responsibilities include the implementation of the DkIT staff and student policy and procedures for addressing sexual harassment and violence, and educational initiatives to support its roll-out.

Siobhan is a qualified Integrative Psychotherapist with

a MSc in Gestalt Adolescent Psychotherapy and has previously specialised in trauma informed Relationship and Domestic Violence Counselling and has over 13 years’ experience working in this field in Dundalk.

Siobhan has over 25 years’ experience working in Marketing and Communications and for the last two years worked in this area in DkIT. Siobhan also holds a PG Dip in Relationship Counselling, PG Dip in Advertising & Marketing, Bachelor of Design, Professional Diploma



in Leadership and Management and a Micro-credential in EDI Mentoring.

Siobhan brings a wealth of experience to the RiVeR Project steering committee and we look forward to working with her in this regard.

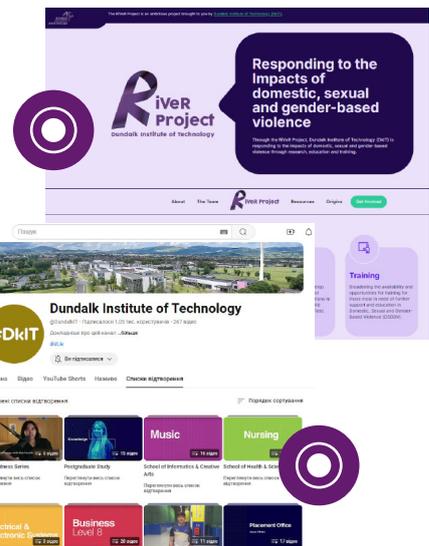


RiVeR Project WEEKLY PODCAST SERIES

Keep an eye out for our new weekly video & audio podcast series which will be launched

in November. These will be available on the **RiVeR Project website**, **DkIT YouTube channel** and across our social media platforms. It will host a wide range of topics from experts in the area of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.

YouTube



Meet the RiVeR Project MSc. Students

ESTER MARIE BALGOVÁ is an MSc. student on the DkIT RiVeR Project working on Development and Evaluation of reusable learning objects (RLO's) for front line professionals and support staff who support individuals experiencing Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence.

Ester has a background in creative skills and theatre and performance. She completed her Bachelor of Arts Honours studies in Drama and Performance at DkIT after successfully finishing her Bachelor's of Arts in Theatre and Film Practice at DkIT.

For her dissertation during BA (Hons) degree Ester researched into the theme of

using theatre performance to explore the portrayal of women's sexual abuse on stage. Ester has written, produced and acted in a play '97 Fragments of Her' that she developed after extensive research into the topics of sexual abuse, trauma, body and the view of women.

Ester is being supervised for her MSc. by Dr Áine McHugh,



Lecturer & Programme Director of the BSc (Hons) in Mental Health Nursing, DkIT and Dr Kayla Rush Assistant Lecturer & Programme Director, BA (Hons) Music Department of Creative Arts, Media and Music, DKIT.

LISA CULLOTY is an MSc. student on the DkIT RiVeR Project and will be conducting a Mixed Methods Evaluation of DkIT's 'Certificate in the Fundamentals of Understanding and Responding to Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence' programme.

Lisa has worked for the past eight years as a frontline worker in the area of Domestic Abuse, working directly with survivors/victims and facilitating training/education programmes with various professionals and young peo-

ple. She has a MA in Applied Psychology and a Bachelor of Social Science degree from University College Cork.

Lisa is being supervised for her MSc. by Dr Anita Byrne, Senior Lecturer/Programme Director in Midwifery, DkIT



and Dr Moira Maguire, Acting Head of School of Health & Science, DkIT.

Other Events and Notices From Our Community of Practice

Active* Consent programme report launch

The RiVeR Project was delighted to support the launch of the **Active* Consent programme report** focusing on the Higher Education and Further Education & Training sectors in Dublin on September 18th.



Drogheda Women's & Children's Refuge Annual Report 2023 Launched

Drogheda Women's & Children's Refuge (DWCR) is proud to announce the release of its Annual Report for 2023. The official launch took place on **24 September 2024 at 9:00 AM** in the **Dolls House, Drogheda**, marking another important year in our ongoing efforts to support women and children affected by domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence (DSGBV).



Dr. Kathleen Nallen, RiVeR Project Lead (on Right) spoke at the launch of the Annual Report in the Dolls House Drogheda.

The report provides an in-depth overview of the challenges, achievements, and strategic advancements made throughout the year.

Key highlights include:		Expanded children's services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14,166 service interventions were carried out with women up 12% from 2022. <p>Key areas of support included Safety & Abuse Work, Legal, Housing, Financial and Mental Health Support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 62 women and 63 children were admitted to the refuge for crisis accommodation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,514 individual play sessions provided to 62 children. • We established evening and weekend supports for children with the Children's Activity Worker.
<p>Expanded Community Outreach Supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 494 1:1 Support sessions provided by Community Outreach, double that of 2022. • 124 Court Accompaniments were made, an increase of 60% from 2022. • 187 women received legal/court support, and 124 court orders were sought. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of The courAGEus project for young people in the community enabling us to reach 124 participants from September to December in 2023. • The launch of Sexual Violence Services in Meath and an extension in Drogheda, offering comprehensive support to survivors of sexual violence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful application to the Dept. of Justice for The Safe Harbour Project, providing outreach education and awareness programmes to migrant women. • The introduction of a Freephone Helpline in September 2023, improving access to our essential services for women without having to have phone credit.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 686 helpline calls were responded to, providing crucial one-to-one support to women.

Susan Keogh, CEO of Drogheda Women's & Children's Refuge, expressed optimism about the ongoing progress:

"2023 was an important year for DWCR as we continued our mission to support women and children in crisis. With new service expansions and the launch of our Freephone Helpline, we have been able to reach even more women and children in the community. The introduction of CUAN by the Department of Justice later this year signifies a national commitment to tackling DSGBV, and we look forward to working closely with them in 2024 to drive societal change."

The Annual Report also highlights our dedication to enhancing its governance, service delivery, and community engagement efforts. These milestones reflect DWCR's commitment to ensuring that no woman or child faces violence alone.

For further information, please contact:

Susan Keogh, CEO

Email: manager@droghedarefuge.org

Phone: 041 9847262 – 085 8030731

About Drogheda Women's & Children's Refuge:

The Drogheda Women's and Children's Refuge Centre has been serving the community for 25 years, providing refuge, outreach, and critical support services to women and children affected by domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence in Drogheda and the surrounding areas.



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MOVE Ireland (Men Overcoming Violence)

are holding their upcoming launch of their Strategic Plan and Annual Report on the 9th December 2024 from 10am to 2pm in the Mansion House.

The launch will afford us the opportunity to not only reflect on the last year through our Annual Report, but also to look towards the future of our organisation through our 5-year Strategic Plan. Within MOVE, we feel the time has never been more important to focus on improving prevention and intervention programmes, to ensure the safety of society and to support a zero-tolerance approach to DSGBV. Research is constantly confirming the vital role that men play in addressing DSGBV. Perceived peer support has been found to be a consistent predictor of men's use of violence. This is why behaviour intervention programmes like 'Choices' are so important in combatting DSGBV as they encourage men to take responsibility for their

abuse, reflect on their actions, and learn about the effects of domestic abuse on their partner and family. The group element of 'Choices' allows clients to go through this learning process with others. Together they navigate new ways of coping with difficult emotions, reacting without being abusive, and analysing previously held attitudes regarding gender roles and how they have served them.

This is why we have decided to call this year's launch 'From Harm to Hope: Pivot of the Perpetrator.' We hope to showcase that change is possible and that

intervention programmes have a real impact on our society. We believe if we can foster change within our group programmes by encouraging clients to investigate their attitudes and beliefs, then talking more about DSGBV and investigating attitudes and beliefs at a societal level will benefit all and help create a safer Ireland. At MOVE Ireland, we discuss DSGBV daily, but occasions such as our launch afford us the opportunity to bring the work we have done and the work we intend to continue to the masses.

MOVE IRELAND'S
ANNUAL
REPORT 2023 &
STRATEGIC PLAN
2025-2029
LAUNCH

MONDAY 9TH OF
DECEMBER

10:00AM-14:00PM

THE MANSION HOUSE,
19B DAWSON STREET
DUBLIN D02 AF30
COUNTY DUBLIN

Registration link to follow

FROM
HARM TO
Pivot of the Perpetrator

hope

HEA

AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS
HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY

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