



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE NEWSLETTER

September 2025

Forging Links through Nursing in Practice Ireland

The RiVeR Project was honoured to contribute to the July/August edition of the Nursing in Practice Ireland journal—an independent, bi-monthly publication for nurses in general practice and advanced nurse/midwife practitioners. This dedicated cohort is often at the forefront of supporting those affected by Domestic, Sexual, and Gender-Based Violence. We are also looking forward to facilitating a webinar for this community in February 2026. You can read the full article in the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/3v9zt4ca>

RiVeR Project Podcast series: Insights into Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

The RiVeR Project has just released episode 17 of its innovative Podcast series Insights into Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. This important and reflective series continues to bring together a diverse range of voices including:

**Frontline professionals addressing
DSGBV**

**Survivors and lived-experience
advocates**

Legal and policy experts

Academics and researchers

Key policymakers

Whether you are:

A survivor

A practitioner or support worker

A policymaker

A researcher or educator

**Someone seeking a deeper
understanding of DSGBV**

This series provides a trauma-informed and reflective space for learning and collective action toward justice, safety and meaningful social transformation.

We invite you to listen, reflect, share and engage with how Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence is understood, addressed and actively challenged across Ireland.

You can watch/listen to this Podcast series on the following links:

[Click here to access the podcast through RiVeR Project Website](#)

[Click here to access the Podcast Series through the RiVeR Project Spotify Channel](#)

[Click here to access the podcast series via the RiVeR Project DkIT YouTube Channel](#)

Flowing Forward: Short Video clips from the RiVeR Project

We recently spent an inspiring few days with the talented team at One Productions studio in Dublin, filming eight short videos developed as part of the RiVeR Project's reusable learning resources. Watching the scripts come to life in such a professional setting was a truly rewarding experience.

These videos will soon be available for educational and training purposes, serving as invaluable tools to promote a zero tolerance approach to Domestic, Sexual, and Gender-Based Violence.

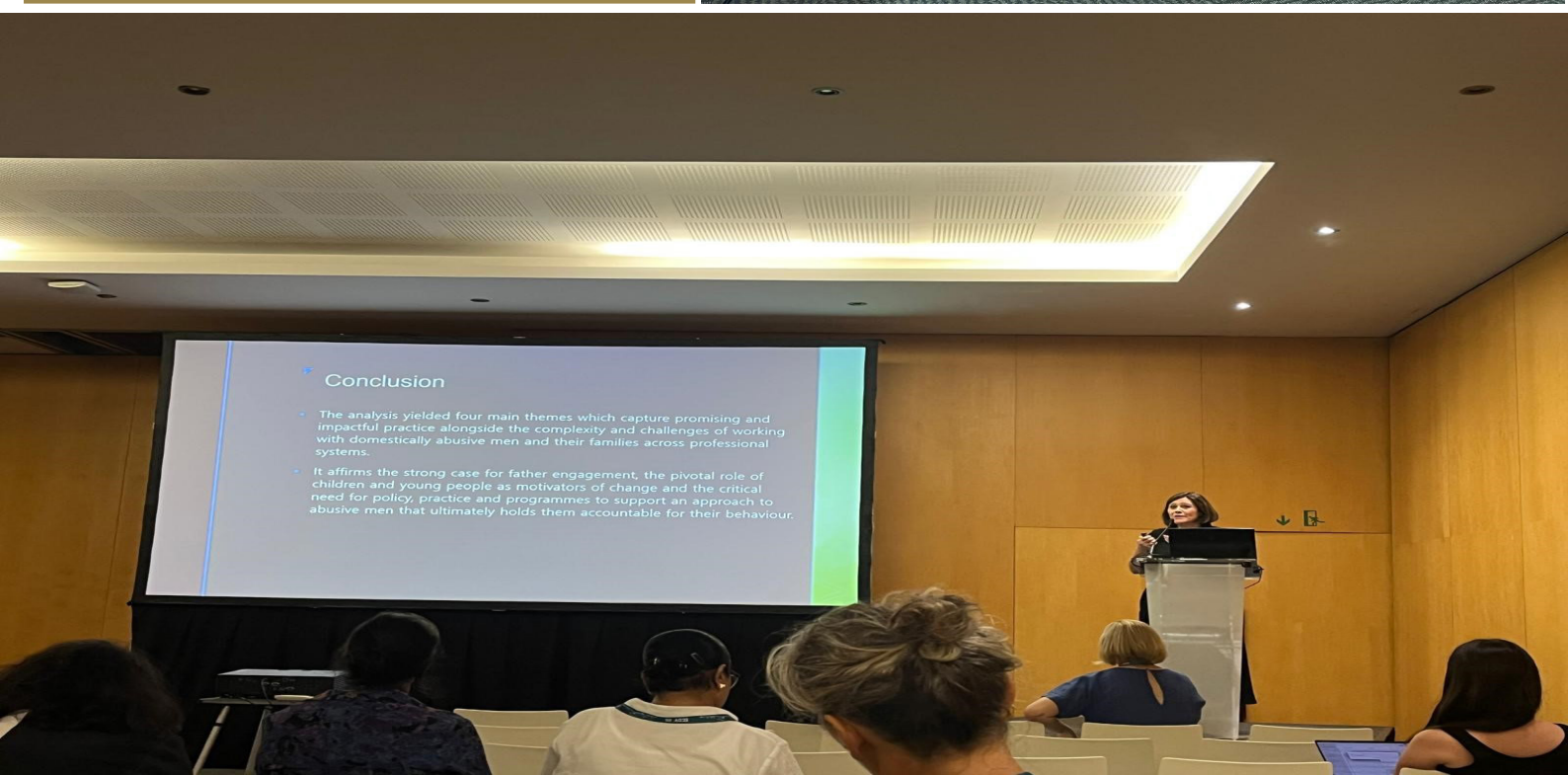
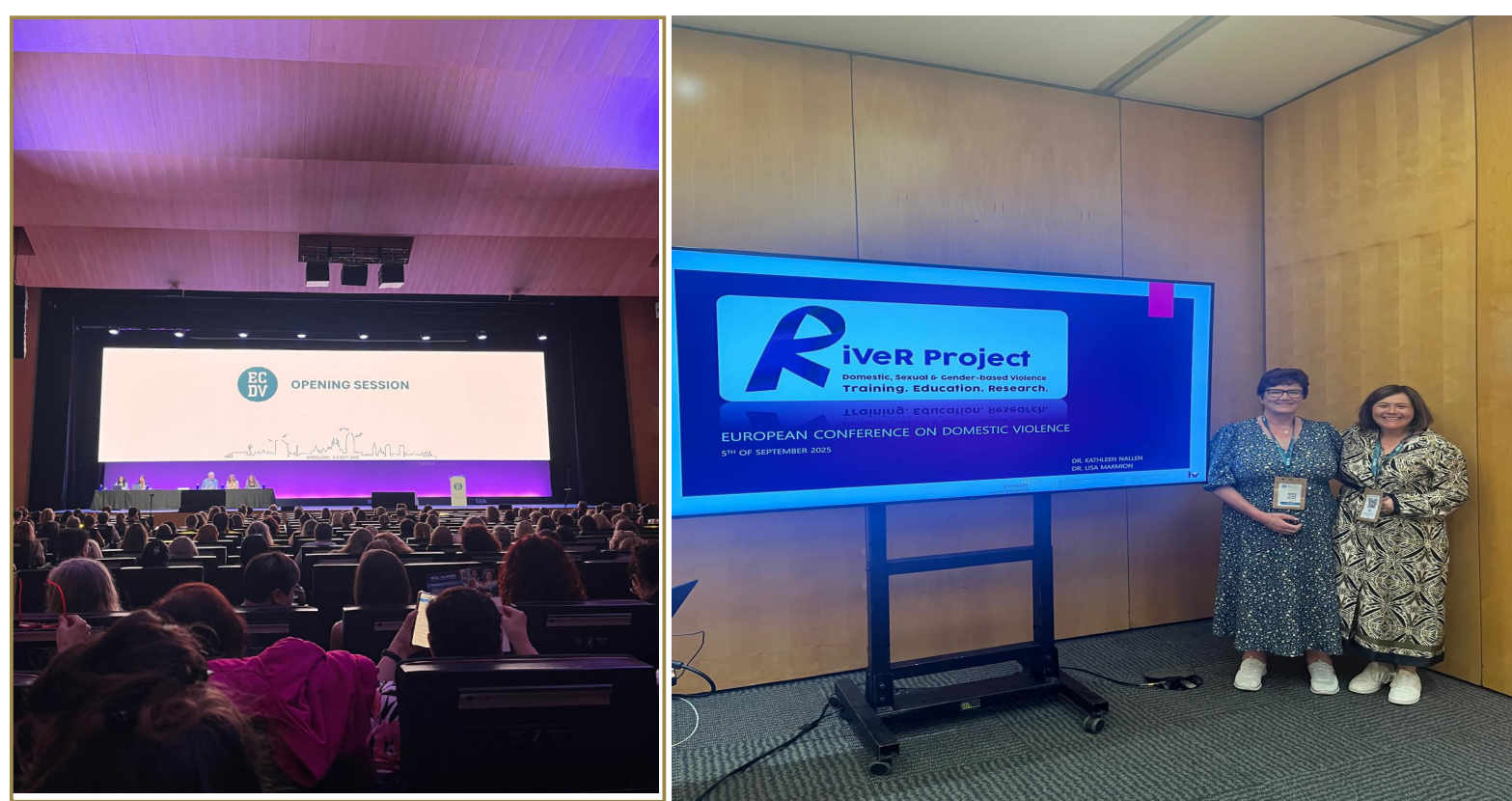
Stay tuned for the official launch and details on how to access the videos at

<https://www.riverproject.ie/>



The RiVeR Project on international stage

Dr. Kathleen Nallen and Dr. Lisa Marmion had the opportunity to present at the recent European Conference on Domestic Violence (ECDV) in Barcelona. The ECDV brought together 1400 delegates including researchers, practitioners, policymakers and advocates from across Europe and beyond to share knowledge, research and innovative approaches to tackling Domestic, Sexual, and Gender-Based Violence. The conference provided a vital platform for networking, collaboration and advancing solutions to end domestic violence, reinforcing the importance of a united, evidence-based response to this critical issue.



Welcome to a New Cohort

On 19th September, DkIT was delighted to welcome 23 students from across Ireland to begin the **'Certificate in the Fundamentals of Understanding and Responding to Domestic, Sexual & Gender-Based Violence'** programme.

This diverse group brings a wealth of backgrounds and experiences to the classroom. The RiVeR Project is proud to support access to this important programme by offering scholarships covering full fees for five students in each intake.



You can read the most recent testimonial about this programme below



Tolulope Sofola, Support worker Women's Aid Dundalk Co. Louth

“Attending the Fundamentals of Understanding and Responding to Domestic, Sexual, and Gender-Based Violence programme has had a profound impact on my professional practice as a support worker in a women’s domestic violence refuge. One of my most valuable takeaways from the course was the importance of self-care—not just as a personal practice, but as an essential part of delivering effective, sustainable support to others.

During the course, I learned something that truly changed my perspective: the brain processes the traumatic experiences of others in the same way it processes our own. It does not differentiate. This insight made me realise that the emotional and psychological effects of my work could quietly accumulate if I did not actively care for my own wellbeing. Before the course, I was unaware of the depth of this impact. Since then, I have made self-care a priority in my daily routine. By maintaining healthy boundaries, practicing mindfulness, and regularly engaging in restorative activities, I have noticed a significant improvement in both my emotional resilience and my productivity at work. I feel more grounded, present, and capable of providing compassionate, consistent support to the women who rely on our services. This programme not only strengthened my professional skills but also gave me the tools to protect my own wellbeing, ensuring that I can continue to serve others with empathy and energy for years to come.”

LAUNCH OF 'IN THEIR SHOES' WORKSHOPS AND TOOLKIT

The DkIT RiVeR Project team is delighted to announce the launch of the 'In Their Shoes' workshops and toolkit on October 13th. Funded by the RiVeR Project (supported by the Higher Education Authority), this interactive toolkit has been thoughtfully adapted from the original U.S. 'In Her Shoes' resource to better reflect modern Irish society. Designed to deepen understanding of the daily challenges faced by victims and survivors of Domestic, Sexual, and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV), 'In Their Shoes' offers a powerful, hands-on learning experience. The team has already hosted an initial workshop, including a train-the-trainer session, giving the Community of Practice an opportunity to apply for a toolkit—subject to meeting the application criteria. Watch out for upcoming workshop dates so your organisation can also benefit from this valuable resource.



Save the Date

Join us on 23rd January 2026 for our Annual Conference.

Theme: Educating for Change: Celebrating a Decade of DSGBV Education at DkIT

For more information, please visit the RiVeR Project Website:

<https://www.riverproject.ie/>

Responding to the risk of Domestic Homicide in Rural Ireland

The RiVeR Project was delighted to support the recent training event hosted by Longford Womens Link Domestic Abuse Response Team. It featured Prof. Jane Monckton Smith OBE a forensic criminologist specialising in homicide, suicide, coercive control and stalking. She presented her theoretical framework for tracking homicide risk in cases of coercive control and stalking.

LONGFORD WOMENS LINK DOMESTIC ABUSE RESPONSE TEAM *presents*
A TWO DAY TRAINING EVENT IN THE LONGFORD ARMS HOTEL

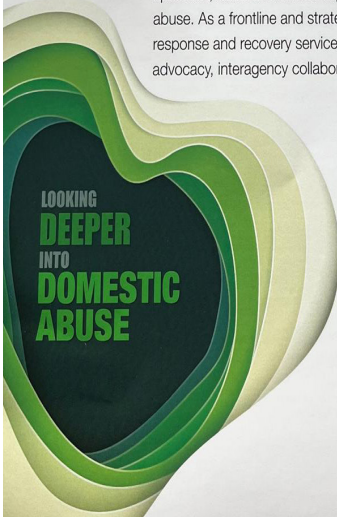
RESPONDING TO THE RISK OF DOMESTIC HOMICIDE IN RURAL IRELAND

24th & 25th
September 2025

Professor Jane Monckton Smith OBE
is a forensic criminologist specialising in homicide, suicide, coercive control and stalking. She has authored a new theoretical framework for tracking homicide risk in cases of coercive control and stalking. Her wider body of work is acknowledged as having societal impact and influence, and is described as outstanding and innovative.



LONGFORD WOMEN'S LINK DOMESTIC ABUSE RESPONSE TEAM (LWL-DART)
plays a critical role within Longford Women's Link (LWL) by delivering specialist, trauma-informed support to women experiencing domestic abuse. As a frontline and strategic team, we not only provide crisis response and recovery services, but also engage in systemic advocacy, interagency collaboration, and public education.



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An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice



Longford
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SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

www.lwl.ie



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