

# **iveR Project**

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

## April 2024 Community of Practice Newsletter

---

### Welcome to the RiVeR Project Team



**Lisa Marmion** is the Research Assistant on the RiVeR Project. Prior to this Lisa was the Services Development Manager with Safe Ireland and Services Manager of Women's Aid Dundalk. Lisa was a member of the multidisciplinary steering group that developed the Certificate in the Fundamentals of Understanding and Responding to Domestic Abuse programme delivered by DkIT. In addition, she teaches and assesses students on this programme.

Lisa holds a BSc.(Hons) in Social Psychology and an MSc. In Applied Psychology from Ulster University.



**Muhammad Irfan** is the Educational Technologist on the RiVeR Project. Muhammad possesses a diverse range of skills, experiences and achievements within higher education systems. With expertise in research, academia and technology he has made significant contributions to the field. His areas of focus encompass academic and market research, the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education, critical teaching and learning methodologies, Academic Integrity and studies in journalism, media and communication. Additionally, he excels in enhancing pedagogical methods, practical applications and processing techniques, aligning with the evolving landscape of educational technology. Notably, his work underscores the significance of communication skills, aligning with the principles of Universal Design for Learning, to ensure inclusivity and accessibility for all in third level education.



**Lisa Marmion, Research Assistant, RiVeR Project,** presenting a poster at the recent School of Health & Science Annual Research Day: A mixed methods evaluation of an accredited multidisciplinary *Certificate in the Fundamentals of Understanding and Responding to Domestic Abuse (FURDA)* programme and evaluation of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV) stakeholder education and training needs.



**Save the Date:** Tuesday June 18<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Time:** 09.30 – 13.00hrs.

**Community of Practice Workshop:** 'In Her Shoes®' interactive exercise (<https://wscadv.org/trainingkits/in-her-shoes/>).

This activity is designed to allow individuals the opportunity to walk 'in the shoes' of women experiencing Domestic Violence.

**Venue:** Dundalk Institute of Technology

**More details to follow.**

### 'In Her Shoes' interactive kit details

## Other Events and Notices From Our Community

**The Family Addiction Support Network (FASN):** in collaboration with the National Family Support Steering Group, is organizing a two-day conference on **'Trauma in Our Community'** on the **19th and 20th of September**. This conference represents an innovative approach to developing key safety measures for family members and communities. Utilizing a collaborative and experiential approach, the Family Addiction Support Network and the National Family Support Steering Group will share resources and insights to maximize benefits for our client groups. The goal is to raise awareness of the trauma and harm experienced by families and communities due to substance misuse and drug-related intimidation, highlighting that this is not an isolated incident but a national and widespread issue, giving a voice to the most vulnerable. This collective voice will underscore the impact experienced.

**Day 1** is open to services and families in Cavan & Monaghan, Louth & Meath, the National Family Support Steering Group (NFSSG), and Cross Border participants. We hope that the information gathered from round table discussions with those most affected will guide services in understanding the needs for Trauma-Informed Care and what Whole Family Recovery means to family members, ensuring their needs are addressed.

**Day 2** will focus on strengthening the relationship between family support groups from the Northeast, Southeast, North Inner City, and Cork Partnership. We are hopeful that peer-led facilitators will be inspired to train in Trauma-Informed Practice in 2024. Additionally, we aim to sustain the shared learning with the NFSSG and emphasize the importance of self-care when assisting family members affected by substance misuse.

# 1 BILLION 1 RISING 2024 RISE FOR FREEDOM

**Join & dance with us in the  
biggest international  
campaign to end violence  
against women & girls!**

**10am Thursday 16th May 2024  
The Square, Dundalk**

**WOMEN'S AID  
DUNDALK**

24-Hour Helpline: 042-9333244

---

**Save the Date:** This year **MOVE** and **MEND** will be holding their annual **National Training Conference on the 7th and 8th of June in the Anner Hotel, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.**

The two day training conference promises to be both informative and enjoyable with speakers from a variety of backgrounds including probation and protective services, DSGBV services, and more to be confirmed. The conference will also host workshop opportunities for attendees, from which they will be able to take away new skills and approaches to the important work they carry out within MOVE and MEND. Collaboration is highly important within our industry; collaboration between colleagues & collaboration between services. This year's National Training Conference aims to highlight the importance of collaboration and showcase how our own work can also be informed by the work of other services.

# Kids' Coercive Control Web

Written by Children & Young People



By the Empower kids Team hosted by Barnardos

TUSLA

## Coercive Control Web:

Current or past experience of domestic violence and abuse is a feature in many families, yet its effect on children is little understood. When violence occurs in adult relationships, it is a lived experience for children in the home, affecting their health, wellbeing and development. Children are never passive bystanders; they are centrally involved and – even if they do not witness it – experience the violence and abuse in their own right.

Children are victims of domestic violence and abuse and coercive control in their own right, where their lives are dominated by fear, control, isolation and intimidation.

In 2020, Barnardos Ireland, embarked on the Empower Kids project to really engage with children and young people to give voice to their lived experience of domestic violence and abuse. Using the Lundy model of participation, over the course of 4 years, through a network of local childhood domestic violence and abuse projects and specialist domestic abuse services, the empower kids project has supported up to 74 children and young people to produce several lived experience resources. These include a short animation and several posters – all aimed at professionals within the sector – which all can be found here: <https://www.barnardos.ie/our-services/work-with-families/childhood-domestic-violence-abuse/cdva-practioners-resources/cdva-what-children-young-people-have-to-say/>

In 2023, during the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, the empower kids project, released one of their most powerful resources to date - The Kids Coercive Control Web. This children's version of the Power and Control Wheel originally developed by Ellen Pence, is a powerful resource which demonstrates coercive control through the eyes and ears of children and young people. It is aimed at front line services and professionals to enhance their understanding of the impact of coercive control on children. The resource supported the children and young people of the empower kids project to be able to name their experiences of coercive control, where their expertise and agency was affirmed, valued, respected and listened to by the adults in their lives.

We recognise that this web, is not every child's story, with each child and young person having their own unique lived experience of coercive control. So we have created a version of this web, that professionals can use as a tool in their 1:1 work, to support children and young people to name their own experiences of domestic violence and abuse. This DIY version can be downloaded and printed directly from the Barnardos website (link above), and there are also easy to follow step by step instructions on the website to guide you in making this personalised coercive control web with a child attending your service.



[Click here for full details on this project](#)

HEA

AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS  
HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY

**email:** [info@riverproject.ie](mailto:info@riverproject.ie) **Twitter/X:** [@RiverProject\\_ie](https://twitter.com/RiverProject_ie)