

4th EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



European
Conference on
Domestic
Violence

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Editors

Jasna Podreka, Ana Marija Sobočan
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Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana
Faculty of Social Work, University of Ljubljana
Faculty of Education, University of Ljubljana
Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana
Institute for Criminology at Faculty of Law



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Front page - Nina Koželj

Dear delegates

On behalf of the organising and scientific committees we would like to welcome you to the fourth European Conference on Domestic Violence. This series of conferences is designed for practitioners, policy makers and researchers with the aim of:

- Better understanding and raising awareness of domestic violence and its impact on individuals and society
- Sharing critical and valid research findings and practical developments from across Europe and beyond and discussing the implications for policies and practices
- Promoting evidence-based policy and practice developments related to domestic violence
- Encouraging good practice by facilitating networking and resourcing between participants with different areas of knowledge and expertise
- Enlarging research and practice networks and further developing methods and tools on preventing and combating domestic violence.

Given the challenges we face globally, it has been necessary to deliver the conference online for this year. We are very grateful that you and over six hundred others have joined us for this important event, especially as there is emerging evidence of the increase in various forms of domestic and gender-based violence internationally as a consequence of the pandemic and the measures taken to address it. Additionally, in some countries in Europe, there has been a rolling back of the protections afforded to adult and child victims, and the potential that funding for services may become even more restricted. Having a strong, collective voice, and a robust evidence base is one of the ways of trying to resist this retrenchment, and ensuring that the Istanbul Convention achieves its aims.

We are very grateful to everyone who submitted an abstract to present, and to those who accepted the invitation to present their work. As in previous conferences, while the event has a specific European focus, we are very pleased to welcome contributors from around the globe. We hope that you find your time at the conference fulfilling and that you will, in the spirit of the conference, both contribute to and benefit from the wealth of opportunities available.

The conference could not have taken place without the generous support of the University of Ljubljana, and the excellent services provided by the Congress Center Cankarjev Dom. We are also very grateful to the members of the local organising and scientific committees for all their work to make the conference happen, in the most extraordinary of circumstances.

Thank you once again for participating in the conference, and we look forward to a stimulating three days of presentation and discussion.

Professor Vesna Leskošek,
University of Ljubljana,
Faculty of Social Work
Chair of the local Organising Committee



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vesna Leskošek'.

Professor Milica Antić Gaber,
University of Ljubljana,
Faculty of Arts
Co-chair of the Scientific Committee



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Milica Antić Gaber'.

Professor John Devaney,
University of Edinburgh,
School of Social and Political Science
Co-chair of the Scientific Committee



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Devaney'.

CHAIRS OF CONFERENCE

Milica Antić Gaber (*Faculty of Arts*)

Vesna Leskošek (*Faculty of social work*)

COMMITTEES

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Vlasta Jalušič, *Peace Institute – Institute for Contemporary Social and Political Studies, Slovenia*
Živa Humer, *Peace Institute – Institute for Contemporary Social and Political Studies, Slovenia*

Vanja Bučan: Mauerhasen



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Cathy Humphreys



Cathy Humphreys is Professor of Social Work at University of Melbourne, Australia. She has produced an extensive body of work in both the UK, where she worked for 12 years at the University of Warwick, and since 2006, a multi-million dollar program of research in Australia in the areas of domestic and family violence and out of home care. Cathy is co-director of the Melbourne Alliance to End Violence Against Women and Their Children (MAEVe) which was established in 2015 to draw together academics from across the University of Melbourne who are active in research in this area.

Jasna Podreka



Jasna Podreka is a researcher and Teacher Assistant at the Department of Sociology at Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana.

She obtained her PhD in 2014, defending thesis on gender-based killings of women by male intimate partners. She was a member of the European Cooperation in Science & technology Action IS1206 Femicide across Europe for the period 2013-2017. Besides gender-based violence and femicide, her main research interests are discrimination and inequalities in fields of work, politics and personal life. She is a member of Slovene Sociological Association and is actively engaged in Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children who were victims of violence.

She is also a guest lecturer at educational panels on gender-based violence for police force, social workers and members of NGOs. She published various scientific articles on the topic of domestic violence, sexual violence and femicide. In 2017 she published a book on the topic of intimate partner homicides of women in Slovenia.

Hannah J. Bows



Assistant Professor in Criminal Law at Durham Law School, Durham University and deputy-director of the Centre for Research into Violence and Abuse (CRiVA). My research interests are broadly located in the fields of gender, ageing and crime, with particular interests in crimes against, and by, people age 60 and over. My current research funded through a British Academy Wolfson Fellowship is examining criminal justice outcomes and decision making in cases involving older adults. Outside of academia, I sit as a magistrate in County Durham and

Darlington and I am the Chair of Age UK Teesside.

Iris Luarasi



Iris Luarasi PhD. is a professor in the Department of Journalism and Communications at the University of Tirana. She is the First Vice President of GREVIO at Council of Europe. She leads for 20 years the Counselling Line for Women and Girls (the National Helpline for victims of DV and VAW) and the first male centre in Albania – Counselling Line for Men and Boys that tries to rehabilitate perpetrator of domestic violence and works on the prevention with young boys in the country and fatherhood campaigns. Luarasi also trains Albanian journalists in

human rights, journalism ethics, fake news, hate speech and sexism. Her research and publishing activities include leading a study on domestic violence and sex crimes, a guide for reporters on Gender Based Violence and sexual assault and authoring two books on radio journalism and media in Albania.

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The logo for 'attenti' features the word in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font. The letter 'a' is red, while the remaining letters 'ttenti' are black.

Publishers

Journal of Gender-Based Violence (Policy Press)



The most recent publication of the Journal of Gender Based Research is a special issue with papers from the 3rd ECDV: Digital Technologies and Gender Based Violence: mechanisms for oppression, activism, and recovery. (in press).



Anja Kranjc: The Incarnation of the Wilderness III

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

9:30-10:00 **Opening Speeches**

10:00-11:30 **8 Parallel Sessions:**

PSO1	Symposium 1
PSO2	Symposium 2
WSO1	Workshop 1
SessTAO1	Femicide and Homicide
SessTBO1	Children and Young People
SessTCO1	Prevalence and Trends
SessTDO1	Criminal Justice
SessTEO1	Intersectionality

11:30-11:45 Break

11:45-13:15 **8 Parallel Sessions:**

PSO3	Symposium 3
PSO4	Symposium 4
RT	Roundtable
SessTAO2	Sexual Violence
SessTBO2	Legal Frameworks
SessTCO2	Violence against Elderly
SessTDO2	Criminal Investigation and Police
SessTEO2	LGBTQI+ and Domestic Violence

13:15-14:15 **Poster Session/Lunch break/
Meet the editors - 13:25-14:10**

14:15-15:00 **Keynote Speech 1**

The missing generation - violence against older women in Europe
Hannah J. Bows

15:10-16:40 **8 Parallel Sessions:**

PSO5	Symposium 5
PSO6	Symposium 6
WSO2	Workshop O2
SessTAO3	COVID-19
SessTBO3	Adolescents, Students and Sexual Violence
SessTCO3	Coercive Control
SessTDO3	Female Offenders and Male Victims
SessTEO3	Research

16:40-16:55 Break

16:55-18:25 **8 Parallel Sessions:**

PSO7	Symposium 7
PSO8	Symposium 8
WSO3	Workshop O3
SessTAO4	Country reports
SessTBO4	Shelters
SessTCO4	Coercive Control 2
SessTDO4	Healthcare
SessTEO4	Research 2

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

9:30-11:00

8 Parallel Sessions:

PS09	Symposium 9
PS10	Symposium 10
WSO4	Workshop 4
SessTAO5	Femicide and Homicide 2
SessTBO5	Young People
SessTCO5	Rape
SessTDO5	Forms and Experiences
SessTEO5	Research 3

11:00-11:15

Break

11:15-12:00

Keynote Speech 2

Responding to children living with domestic abuse in the context of their relationships
Cathy Humphreys

12:10-13:40

8 Parallel Sessions:

PS11	Symposium 11
PS12	Symposium 12
WSO5	Workshop 5
SessTAO6	COVID-19 2
SessTBO6	Schools
SessTCO6	Young People 2
SessTDO6	Trafficking, Forced Marriage and Sources of GBV
SessTEO6	Research 4

13:40-14:30

Poster Session/Lunch break
Sattelite Symposium Attenti, Electronic Monitoring: Protecting DV victims through technology

14:30-16:00

8 Parallel Sessions:

PS05	Symposium 13
PS06	Symposium 14
WSO2	Workshop 06
SessTAO7	COVID-19 3
SessTBO7	Shelters 2
SessTCO7	Education
SessTDO7	Health Related Issues
SessTEO7	Research and Review

16:00-16:15

Break

16:15-17:00

Keynote Speech 3

Intimate partner homicide in Slovenia pre- and post- covid-19
Jasna Podreka

17:10-18:40

7 Parallel Sessions:

PS15	Symposium 15
PS16	Symposium 16
WSO7	Workshop 07
SessTAO8	Ideology of Alienation
SessTBO8	Migrants, Refugees and Displaced Women
SessTCO8	Rights
SessTDO8	Stalking

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

9:30-11:00

7 Parallel Sessions:

PS17	Symposium 17
PS18	Symposium 18
WSO8	Workshop 8
SessTA09	Approaches and Perspectives
SessTBO9	Training Models and Education
SessTCO9	Institutional Barriers
SessTDO9	Culture and Understanding

11:00-11:15

Break

11:15-12:00

Keynote Speech 4

Istanbul Convention and its “threat of destroying the norms of families”

Iris Luarasi

12:10-13:40

7 Parallel Sessions:

PS19	Symposium 19
PS20	Symposium 20
PS21	Symposium 21
SessTA10	COVID-19 4
SessTB10	MeToo and Media Representation
SessTC10	Istanbul Convention and CEDAW
SessTD10	Prevention

13:40-14:30

Poster Session/Lunch break

14:30-16:00

5 Parallel Sessions:

PS22	Symposium 22
PS23	Symposium 23
SessTB11	Voices and Representations
SessTC11	Models and Education
SessTD11	Local Initiatives and Projects

16:00-16:15

Break

16:15-17:45

6 Parallel Sessions:

PS24	Symposium 24
PS25	Symposium 25
SessTA12	Technology
SessTB12	Trauma and Recovery
SessTC12	Strategies and Models
SessTD12	Impacts and Contexts

17:45

Closing Session



Jasmina Vidmar: Traces

DETAILED PROGRAMME

Programme is in CET

09:30

Chair:

Opening Speeches

Vesna Leskošek

John Devaney, University of Edinburgh, Co-chair of the scientific committee and co-founder of ECDV

Vesna Leskošek and **Milica Antić Gaber**, University of Ljubljana, Co-chairs of the conference

Prof. dr. **Igor Papič**, Rector of the University of Ljubljana

Reem Alsalem, UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

10:00-11:30

PSO1 Symposium 1

Responding to the 'shadow pandemic': A multi-country account of responding to domestic violence during COVID-19 143

Presenters:

Kate Fitz-Gibbon, Katrin Hohl, Naomi Pfitzner, Sandra Walklate

Titles:

When staying home isn't safe: Practitioner experiences of responding to domestic violence during COVID-19 in Victoria, Australia

Changes and continuities in police responses to domestic abuse in England and Wales during the Covid-19 'lockdown'

The police response to domestic abuse during Covid-19

The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Domestic and Family Violence Services and Clients, Australia

10:00-11.30

PSO2 Symposium 2

Technology and gender-based violence: Emerging issues and solutions 135

Presenters:

Tirion Havard, Molly Dragiewicz, Leonie Maria Tanczer, Bridget Harris

Titles:

Technology, girls, young women and gangs

Children's involvement in technology-facilitated coercive control

The "perfect" device: Technical design recommendations from the frontline

Confronting digital coercive control: international perspectives on 'safety work' and solutions

10:00-11.30

WSO1 Workshop 1

Multiple Pathways to Harm: Assessing the impact on children and family functioning should be our first step 148

Presenter:

Anna Mitchell

- 10:00-11:30 SessTAO1 **Femicide and Homicide**
Chair: Mojca Plesničar
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 Freya Mclachlan
- 10:15-10:30 **Femicides committed by police officers in the last decade in Republic of Serbia** 285
 Vedrana Lacmanović
- 10:30-10:45 **Measuring femicide** 101
 Cristina Fabre
- 10:45-11:00 **Legal responses to women who kill their abusers: A Scottish perspective** 64
 Rachel Mcpherson
- 11:00-11:30 Discussion
- 10:00-11:30 SessTBO1 **Children and Young People**
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 Margaret Kertesz, Cathy Humphreys, Jasmin Isobe
- 10:15-10:30 **Keeping children's voices central to developing a common understanding of childhood domestic violence and abuse in Ireland** 121
 Áine Costello
- 10:30-10:45 **"Witnessed" violence or direct violence? Father's Violence in Children's Voice** 146
 Valentina Smotlak, Mariachiara Feresin, Patrizia Romito
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 Annemarie Millar, Michael D Saxton, Carolina Överlien, Ruth Elliffe
- 11:00-11:30 Discussion
- 10:00-11:30 SessTCO1 **Prevalence and Trends**
Chair: Stephanie Holt
- 10:00-10:15 **Factors associated with intimate partner violence against women in Vietnam: An analysis of trends 2010-2019** 60
 Seema Vyas, Viet Nga, Tran Bich Loan, Henriette Jansen, Sujata Tuladhar, Jessica Gardner
- 10:15-10:30 **Prevalence of intimate partner violence among adolescents and young women in Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam** 235
 Mineka Subhashini, Thi Bich Loan Tran, Jessica Gardner, Seema Vyas
- 10:30-10:45 **Tracing the pathways from 'Abused childhood' to 'Convicted adulthood': Narratives of selected cases from India** 89
 Shreejata Niyogi
- 10:45-11:00 **An analysis of changes and trends in the prevalence of partner violence against women in Asia & the Pacific** 309
 Kristin Diemer, Seema Vyas, Henrica (Henriette) A.F.M. Jansen, Sujata Tuladhar, Jessica Gardner
- 11:00-11:30 Discussion

- 10:00-11:30 SessTDO1 **Criminal Justice**
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- 10:30-10:45 **Risk Refraction: Thoughts on the Victim-Survivor's Risk Journey through the Criminal Justice Process** 118
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Marie Eriksson
- 10:45-11:00 **Domestic Violence and Disability in India Explored in Relation to the Sustainable Development Goals** 96
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- 11:00-11:30 Discussion
- 11:30-11:45 Break
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Taking Stock: Ten Years of Domestic Homicide Reviews in England and Wales 43
Presenters: James Rowlands, Elizabeth Cook, Marilia Calcia, Sarah Dangar
Titles:
 More than a meeting: exploring dialogic space in domestic homicide review;
 Domestic homicide reviews as numbers and narratives

Domestic Homicide Reviews and their contribution to clinical services: reflections from a clinician and researcher

Beyond homicide, bringing visibility to domestic abuse-related suicide

11:45-13:15

PSO4 **Symposium 4**

Transforming Responses to Economic Abuse 177

Presenters: Nicola Sharp-Jeffs, Kathryn Royal, Jenn Glinski, Olumide Adisa

Titles:

Understanding the economics of abuse: an assessment of the economic abuse definition within the Domestic Abuse Bill

Economic abuse within the offence of coercive or controlling behaviour in England and Wales

A challenge to the system: Investigating understanding and responses to economic abuse at the Royal Bank of Scotland

Exploring the potential application of systems thinking to assessing perceived value and affective impacts of economic abuse interventions

11:45-13:15

RT **Round table**

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Presenters: Jasna Podreka, Rok Smrdelj, Linn Julian Koletnik, Nina Perger, Mateja Vilfan

11:45-13:15

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Chair:

Vjollca Krasniqi

11:45-12:00

Sexual violence within intimate relationships 102

Cristina Fabre, Sophia Lane

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Covid-19 and the process of domestic abuse policymaking across the UK: catalyst or diversion?

Mhairi Mackenzie, Annette Hastings, Alice Earley

12:15-12:30

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- 12:30-12:45 **Violence against older women – how could specialists find, help and support them to maintain dignified life?** 356
 Pille Tsopp-Pagan
- 12:45-13:15 Discussion
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Chair: Lilijana Stevković
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 Monika Klun, Aleš Bučar Ručman, Danijela Frangež
- 12:00-12:15 **Illicit drugs and domestic violence from the perspective of a criminal police investigator** 189
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 Margareta Hydén, David Gadd, Malin Åkerström, Susanne Boethius

- 12:30-12:45 **Holding Offenders Accountable and Measures to Prevent Re-victimization: Prosecution of IPV Against Women in Slovakia** 214
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- 12:45-13:15 Discussion
- 11:45-13:15 SessTEO2 **LGBTQI+ and Domestic Violence**
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POSTERS

Posters (viewing .pdf files) will be accessible to conference participants in the poster gallery during the whole conference; active presentations (video) for interested participants will be possible during poster sessions (all three days during lunch break/poster presentations)

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P02	Misogyny in the Biographies of Mass Murderers: The elephant in the room (#74)	Presenter: Elizabeth Yardley	All authors: Elizabeth Yardley
P03	Challenging Gender-Based Violence Through Transnational Creative Responses: #MeToo, Empowerment and the Arts (#94)	Presenter: Lauren Stetz	All authors: Lauren Stetz
P04	Supporting Christian Women Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence: Clergy Experiences (#111)	Presenter: Pamela Shelley	All authors: Pamela Shelley
P05	Fatherhood in the Icelandic mass media: Neo-liberal discourses on fathers and gender equality (#301)	Presenter: Rannveig Á. Guðjónsdóttir	All authors: Rannveig Á. Guðjónsdóttir
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P08	Factors behind running away from the Hungarian child protection system: violence, abuse and prostitution in youngsters' life history (#16)	Presenter: Dorottya Sik	All authors: Rácz Andrea, Dorottya Sik
P09	Gender-based violence in youth intimate partners – Evidence from Albania (#41)	Presenter: Elona Dhëmbo	All authors: Elona Dhëmbo, Veronika Duci, Erika Bejko
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P12	My body belongs to me - in kindergarten (#162)	Presenter: Silje Vold	All authors: Silje Vold
P13	Impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on the home lives of women from ethnic minority communities in the UK (#133)	Presenter: Ankita Mishra	All authors: Ankita Mishra
P14	Polyvictimization and depression in hospitalized older adults (#193)	Presenter: Nicolina Wiklund	All authors: Nicolina Wiklund, Johanna Simmons, Mikael Ludvigsson

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P18	An exploration of LGBT+ victim/survivor help-seeking during the COVID-19 pandemic (#345)	Presenter: Kirsty McGregor	All authors: Kirsty McGregor, Jessica Raskauskas
P19	Multidisciplinary approach in the area of protection of children against violence in the conditions of the Slovak Republic including the legislative background (#83)	Presenters: Marián Hamada, Mária Vargová	All authors: Marián Hamada, Mária Vargová, Sandra Fischerova
P20	Who reports intimate partner violence against women in Spain? What happens to witnesses? (#150)	Presenter: Andrés Sánchez-Prada	All authors: Andrés Sánchez-Prada, Virginia Ferreiro-Basurto, Victoria A. Ferrer-Perez, Esperanza Bosch-Fiol, Carmen Delgado-Alvarez
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P22	The Drive IDVA Model: Learning from the Drive project on joint work between perpetrator-focused and victim/survivor-focused practitioners (#163)	Presenters: Emma Vallis, Shanti Rao	All authors: Emma Vallis, Shanti Rao
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P25	SOL.NET Research Project: Intervention of Informal Support Networks on Domestic Violence (#187)	Presenter: Patricia Melgar Alcantud	All authors: Patricia Melgar Alcantud, Roger Campdepadros Cullerell, Mar Joanpere Foraster, Garazi Lopez de Aguilera
P26	The Safe pregnancy study - promoting safety behaviours in antenatal care among Norwegian, Pakistani and Somali pregnant women: A randomized controlled trial (#195)	Presenter: Eva Flaathen	All authors: Eva Flaathen, Lena Henriksen, Milada Småstuen, Lisa Garnweidner-Holme, Mirjam Lukasse, Berit Schei, Anglea Taft, Josef Noll
P27	Tackling sexual violence in large gatherings through safe spaces for women in the Canary Islands (#219)	Presenter: Karishma Wadhvani Chatlani	All authors: Karishma Wadhvani Chatlani
P28	Rights, not ‘gifts’ of support in statutory social work (#260)	Presenter: Aisha Howells	All authors: Aisha Howells

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P30	Victim service providers' secondary traumatic stress during COVID-19 (#346)	Presenter: Irma Kovčo Vukadin	All authors: Irma Kovčo Vukadin
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P32	Trafficking and domestic abuse (#13)	Presenter: Iliada Kothra	All authors: Iliada Kothra
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P38	A study of penalty in domestic violence cases (#326)	Presenter: Michela de Felice	All authors: Michela de Felice



Tina Dobraj: The mother of the world

The missing generation - violence against older women in Europe

Bows Hannah¹

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There has been an exponential growth in research documenting the prevalence, nature and consequences of violence against women over the last three decades. This work is inter and multi-disciplinary, spanning health, sociology, social policy, social work, law and other related fields. Yet, there remain gaps in knowledge, with some groups understudied as both victims and offenders. Older adults – defined as aged 60 and over for the purposes of this chapter – have seldom been included in research and data examining domestic violence (and other forms of interpersonal violence) prevalence, risk factors and consequences, and much less the explicit focus of empirical (or theoretical) inquiry. This paper will consider the absence of older people, as victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, across European research, theory and policy. It will argue that deeply entrenched ageism contributes to this absence and the framing of violence against older adults (primarily older women) as 'elder abuse' has resulted in a conceptual camouflaging of violence against older women. This paper will argue that domestic violence against older adults must be disentangled from elder abuse and brought into mainstream feminist theory on violence against women and girls.

Responding to children living with domestic abuse in the context of their relationships

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Formal recognition of the negative impact on children of living with domestic abuse emerged in 1990 and took hold around 1994 in the UK. This is not new territory. Since that time, there have been thousands of studies of children living with domestic abuse. A recent longitudinal study showed unequivocally the disadvantage behaviourally, cognitively and emotionally for children living with domestic abuse compared to children not living with domestic abuse. What new is there to say? I will draw from studies I have been involved in as well as other evidence to look at a few of the potential areas.

Firstly, children's voices and experiences need to be heard. Digital stories have been helpful in this regard and particularly when they talk about what they expect of fathers. Young people are providing different perspectives and a new voice in a wide range of different areas.

Secondly, the development of practice which recognises the harm (and resilience) for children living with domestic abuse has been poor. Unfortunately, the dominant paradigm in relation to children became led by statutory child protection. A narrowly defined focus on risk, safety and harm developed practice which targeted women weighing up their capacity to, or failure to protect their children and with little attention to Intersectionality. The lack of attention by child protection to men as fathers continued into the domestic abuse space. Re-inventing practice which supports and strengthens the mother-child relationship and focuses on the accountability of fathers is quietly gaining traction.

Thirdly, I would argue that addressing complexity has not been the strong suit of the domestic abuse specialist sector. The development of practice and policy which embraces the co-occurrence of domestic abuse with alcohol and other drugs, and/or mental health has been slow to develop. For instance, the increase in the severity of violence when drugs and alcohol are involved and the use of AOD as a tactic of coercive control has been poorly developed in our practice response. Only a few programs have been developed and sustained that address both the addiction and the violence of fathers who use violence.

Finally, I will argue that the Achilles Heel in the response to domestic abuse lies in post-separation violence. We do not talk about 'Fathers who use violence'. On separation, the domestic abuse disappears and magically the domestically abusive men re-emerge as good enough fathers. There remains rage and despair in the sector over this issue. There are glimmers of hope. Providing greater attention to young people's experiences of being parented by a father who uses violence is an area where we could potentially gain an exponential return on investment in the prevention of domestic abuse.

Femicide: the evolution of the definition and the meaning of naming in the study of violent deaths of women

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Empirical findings show that most of the murders and violent deaths of women are the result of some form of gender-based violence. The purpose of this paper is to present the development of the definition and discussion on justification to introduce the term femicide for naming the gender-marked violent deaths of women. Through the important findings from numerous studies at home and abroad, the author will show that there are significant gender differences in the murder and violent deaths of women and the differences between femicide and homicide.

The author will demonstrate the importance of naming women's violent deaths through empirical research on intimate partner homicides in Slovenia, in which she analysed 24 cases of intimate partner homicides that occurred in Slovenia from 2000 to 2011 through in-depth qualitative contextual analysis of personal court records and retrospective analysis of media publications for news about intimate partner homicides that occurred in Slovenia in the last two years (2019 and 2020). Although the offense of murder and manslaughter of women or as we name it here femicide in Slovenian crime statistics represents a small proportion of violent crimes, the author argue that they certainly need special attention, because the crime of homicide is one of the most serious crimes known to humanity. According to statistical data and current events in Slovenia, intimate partner femicide is an urgent issue. Statistical data indicates that between 2000 and 2020 almost half of murders and attempted murders of women (43%) were committed by male individuals who were listed as »former spouse or intimate partner«, »intimate partner« and »spouse«. Data about male victims is completely different. It shows that men are, in most cases, murdered by individuals listed in categories »no relationship« (30.84%) and »acquaintance« (23.38%). Individuals listed as »former spouse or intimate partner«, »intimate partner« and »spouse« were perpetrators in 7.05 percent.

Based on the analysed cases the author demonstrates that femicides in Slovenia are distinctly gendered criminal offences and that Slovenia does not differ significantly in this respect from other countries. In analysing the main characteristics of femicides in Slovenia, the author shows that femicides of intimate partners are an extreme manifestation of male power and control over women and should be understood in the larger context of unequal power relations between women and men in society. Intimate partner femicides are not the acts of otherwise non-violent men, rather in most cases, are deliberate acts, characterized by a long period of violence and abuse against murdered partners. Men murder or attempt to murder their partners after a long period of prior »intimate terrorism«, manifested as psychological and physical violence along with other forms of abuse and exploitation. The analysis also shows that the basis of these acts are strong traditional or patriarchal attitudes of perpetrators on partner relationships and gender roles and especially male feelings of the ownership of their female partners

Istanbul Convention and its “threat of destroying the norms of families”

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Istanbul Convention, the treaty of the Council of Europe on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence have been considered a "gold standard" by the UN. Why the Convention is so important to women? The Istanbul Convention is the first-ever legally binding set of guidelines that creates “a comprehensive legal framework and approach to combat violence against women”.

Ratification of this treaty means a legal obligation to apply a gendered perspective to the different forms of violence, which women experience.

Now specifically we need to talk and address concerns raised from “gender ideology” and “gender theory” that have mounted a growing challenge against generally accepted human rights terminology and principles.

The presentation will cover some of that and also a brief history of what happened in recent years with the backlash of the convention.

Some countries considered this definition as too broad and feared it could be interpreted to make way for the allowance of a third gender.

What could be so dangerous to work for the full achievement of gender equality? There are several reasons based on fears for the fate of a traditional society and the need to justify limiting women to stereotypical role. The most important thing is to emphasize that there is no undertone or “hidden agenda” to the Istanbul Convention. The Convention is based on tried and tested policies and legislation which have produced positive results at the level of the member states and contains several provisions which challenge persistent ideas about the inferiority of women compared to men and about the roles and behaviours that women and men should have in the private and public spheres.

As a GREVIO expert I could mention many positive impact that the Convention had in many countries. Many laws are being changed to ensure better criminalization of the different forms of violence against women. There is an increase in the number of national telephone helplines for victims which are a lifeline for women and we have seen an increase in the number of specialist support services for victims of sexual violence. The most important thing, Istanbul Convention is having a positive impact on the lives of women across Europe. But there is a lot more to be done by human rights activists in order to address gender inequality and ignore the reality of gender diversity or the evolution of European human rights law. The Istanbul Convention is not pushing an agenda which would “jeopardise” the social fabric and values of societies and nor does it impose any life choices on women or men.

Responding to the ‘shadow pandemic’: A multi-country account of responding to domestic violence during COVID-19

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Times of crisis and natural disasters are associated with increased violence against women and children, and often reduced access to support services. COVID-19 is no exception with pandemic control measures restricting people’s movements and confining many women to homes with their abusers. In the Australian state of Victoria, residents spent a third of 2020 in strict lockdown with a night-time curfew, one-hour limit on outdoor exercise and a ban on travelling more than 5 km from home. In England and Wales COVID restrictions have varied from compulsory face coverings to limits on gatherings with Wales implementing tougher measures.

Across all three countries restrictions introduced to counter the spread of COVID-19 have exacerbated the gap between domestic violence service demand and the availability and accessibility of support services for those experiencing and using domestic violence. While the specific risks of violence and rates of COVID-19 vary between these jurisdictions, the requirement for service innovation was universal.

This panel will bring together researchers from Australia, England and Wales to share learnings about effective and innovative practices for keeping women and children safe from violence during the COVID-19 pandemic and into recovery.

Drawing on findings from their respective research projects investigating domestic violence and service responses during COVID-19, the panel will begin with a cross-country comparison of the impact of COVID-19 on the nature and incidence of domestic violence. Followed by a discussion about service adaptations and practice innovations in police and domestic violence services during COVID-19. Service disruptions occurred during a time of heightened risk and many workforces supporting women experiencing domestic violence had to rapidly transition to remote service delivery models.

First Paper Title: When staying home isn’t safe: Practitioner experiences of responding to domestic violence during COVID-19 in Victoria, Australia.

The first paper presents findings from a rapid research project investigating domestic violence and help-seeking behaviours during COVID-19 in the Australian state of Victoria. This mixed method research draws on a multi-wave online survey and focus groups with over 100 practitioners who supported women experiencing domestic violence during COVID-19 in Victoria, Australia. The presentation will begin by presenting findings on the nature and prevalence of domestic violence experienced by women during the Victorian lockdowns. It will then go on to share insights into the ways in which practitioners pivoted their services to ensure accessibility and availability of services. The paper presents insights into how practitioners responded remotely to women experiencing domestic violence and the challenges of effectively undertaking safe planning and risk assessment without face-to-face contact. The final part of the presentation will examine the implications of remote service delivery on practitioner mental health and wellbeing.

Second Paper Title: Changes and continuities in police responses to domestic abuse in England and Wales during the Covid-19 'lockdown'

The second paper is based on findings from an ESRC funded project concerned with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on policing and court responses in England and Wales in relation to domestic abuse.

Emanating from work with 22 different police forces it provides an analysis of the wide range of innovative responses made by the police in England and Wales to domestic abuse in the face of this public health crisis. However, whilst the paper suggests that police forces responded both quickly and innovatively during 2020-21, and such cases were prioritized through the magistrates' courts, more serious questions remain concerning the capacity of the criminal justice system as a whole to deal with the consequences of pandemic. The case will be made that the capacity for the police to sustain innovative practices will be severely hampered in the absence of wider criminal justice organizational change.

Third Paper Title: The police response to domestic abuse during Covid-19

The third paper presents findings from an ESRC-funded research project on domestic abuse during the Covid-19 pandemic as it comes to police attention in England and Wales, and police officers perspectives on the challenges of responding to domestic abuse during the pandemic. The presentation has two parts. First, we present findings on the impact of lockdown on the volume and profile of domestic abuse based on large-scale data provided by seven English police forces. Second, we present findings from phone interviews with police officers of various ranks and roles. The interviews capture officer experiences and perspectives on responding to domestic abuse during lockdown, and how police forces have innovated and changed practice in order to adapt to the Covid-19 context.

Fourth Paper Title: The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Domestic and Family Violence Services and Clients, Australia

The fourth paper presents the key findings of a nation-wide survey of the impact of COVID 19 on the domestic and family violence workforce and their clients in Australia. Our findings, based on survey findings of 362 participants from the DFV sector, including 1,507 qualitative responses, confirm the concerns that COVID-19 that pandemic conditions were increasing the rate, severity and complexity of domestic family violence. Our survey found that 67% of 318 service providers (n=212) reported new clients seeking help for the first time during the COVID-19 crisis; that perpetrators were weaponizing COVID-19 restrictions to enhance controlling behaviours, and that pandemic restrictions had wide ranging impacts on the delivery of DFV services and workers.

Technology and gender-based violence: Emerging issues and solutions

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Technology plays an important role in contemporary gender-based violence. Digital media are deeply embedded in the dynamics of abuse in intimate and family relationships and the broader community. Diverse technologies are used to extend recognised dynamics of abuse and provide novel tools to perpetrators, shifting the landscape of violence. This symposium presents path-breaking interdisciplinary research from the UK and Australia on the ways abusers use technology in intimate relationships, families, and gangs. This research elucidates the dynamics and impact of technology-facilitated abuse as well as shortcomings in contemporary systems responses. Then, the symposium discusses solutions to the misuse of technology, based on empirical research with frontline workers and survivors.

Technology, girls, young women and gangs

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Gangs have evolved with changes in social interaction and use mobile phones and social media as a means of exploitation to track and control younger members or girlfriends. This paper draws on research with professionals in North London who work with gangs including those who specialise with women and girls to show how gangs have capitalized on the significance of these technologies to attract and entrap young women and girls into criminal activity.

Children's involvement in technology-facilitated coercive control

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Technology plays a growing role in domestic violence cases. Children are highly involved in and affected by this type of abuse. This paper presents findings from the first Australian study to investigate children's exposure to technology-facilitated coercive control. Findings are drawn from a mixed-methods study that includes interviews with survivors (n=11), young people (n=4), offenders (n=11), focus groups with practitioners (n=13), and a survey of practitioners (n=515) who work on domestic violence cases. Key findings show: children are heavily involved in technology-facilitated coercive control; the abuse has serious implications for children and mothers; most abuse involves common technologies with legitimate dual-uses; yet less than 1/3 of professionals were aware of technology-facilitated abuse in their caseloads.

The “perfect” device: Technical design recommendations from the frontline

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Digital technologies must be user-friendly, secure, and safe. Yet, as previous research on technology-facilitated abuse in the context of intimate partner violence (IPV) has shown, ‘average’ design features such as remote control or voice activation are being appropriated to harass, harm, and coerce victims/survivors. Considering these challenges, this paper studies UK IPV frontline workers (n=34) perception of what a “perfect” digital device should encompass as well as the kinds of questions the IPV sector would have for “expert technologists”. The gained insights allow mapping of design recommendations that can complement existing security and safety practices. They further feed into the larger debate on whose burden it is to keep digital products and services safe and how regulation and the increase of digital literacy may help.

Confronting digital coercive control: international perspectives on ‘safety work’ and solutions

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Domestic violence perpetrators readily use ‘low’ and/or ‘high’ tech channels and strategies to enact coercive and controlling behaviours. Seeking to address risk, enhance safety, prevent violence and protect and empower survivors, advocates, practitioners and technology specialists are leading responses to digital coercive control. Drawing on interviews with experts in both the global north and south, this paper explores leading perspectives on pathways, possibilities and barriers when confronting this emerging harm.

Taking Stock: Ten Years of Domestic Homicide Reviews in England and Wales

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Abstract: Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were implemented in 2011 as a statutory requirement in England and Wales and seek to document the circumstances surrounding domestic violence-related deaths. The intention is to identify learning and to improve system responses, thereby reducing the likelihood of future homicides. The DHR system has developed alongside a growing field of fatality review research which seeks to improve multi-agency responses, identify risk factors, and develop review processes.

The DHR system now approaches ten years since its introduction. It is therefore timely to take stock of the current state of the field, our knowledge of the DHR 'system', and future directions for research. The papers in this symposium draw on empirical and theoretical work of the authors to contribute to such a stocktake by exploring DHRs as data. The papers consider how DHRs are conceptualised, illustrating the complexities of knowledge production within the process, the promise of DHRs as a means to improve our understanding of specific issues such as mental health or suicide, while also explicating how the data generated can be used in aggregate to achieve change.

This symposium will assist others to consider the DHR system as a mechanism, identifying implications for practitioners and policymakers concerning their engagement with the DHR process, as well as for researchers looking to develop a critical analysis of DHRs as data.

Shorter abstracts:

1. James Rowlands, University of Sussex

Title: More than a meeting: exploring dialogic space in domestic homicide review

Abstract: A central premise of a DHR is that it is a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary endeavour, reflecting an assumption that no agency will have a complete picture. Meanwhile, family and friends are also recognised as an important source of information. Collectively, these different perspectives are understood as enabling the production of an account of the circumstances before a homicide. However, the relationship between these different actors and institutions in the production of a DHR has been little considered. Reporting on semi-structured interviews with chairs, commissioners, families and panel members, this paper explores the dialogical space within DHRs. In doing so it interrogates the meaning-making and knowledge generation process at the heart of the review process, with implications for policy and research if DHRs are to be treated simply as data.

2. Dr Elizabeth Cook, City, University of London

Title: Domestic homicide reviews as numbers and narratives

Abstract: The commonly stated purpose of DHRs is the prevention of domestic homicide. However, in England and Wales, there is no central repository for DHRs nor is there any systematic process for the collection and aggregation of data which allows this purpose to be tested. This paper analyses DHRs as a problem of data, both as a narrative record of violence and as an aggregate source of quantitative data, to investigate the challenges that using the former for the latter presents. DHRs are the culmination of layers of expertise and exchanges between practitioners, families, and advocates. This paper argues that DHRs provide rich data for the detailed excavation of coercive behaviours that precede domestic homicide but require large-scale analysis to achieve systems-change.

3. Dr Marilia Calcia, King's College London

Title: Domestic Homicide Reviews and their contribution to clinical services: reflections from a clinician and researcher

Abstract: Reporting on a framework analysis of DHRs where perpetrators used mental health services the year before the homicide, this paper explores the contribution of DHRs to clinical practice in mental health services from the perspective of a DHR researcher and psychiatrist. Mental health services have received criticism in DHRs for their poor identification of, and engagement with, perpetrators. However, homicide reviews have also been criticised for their retrospective analysis of violence perpetrated by people with mental disorders. Using the concept of reflexivity in qualitative research, this paper will discuss how practitioners can use data from DHRs and their descriptions of the clinical and system response to domestic violence perpetrators to improve clinical practice, training and policy.

4. Sarah Dangar, AAFDA

Title: Beyond homicide, bringing visibility to domestic abuse-related suicide

Abstract: Research suggests that one third of all female suicides in England and Wales are preceded by domestic abuse. In 2016, the Home Office Statutory Guidance for Domestic Homicide Reviews was extended to include suicide reviews in order to establish the lessons that might be identified from these deaths. However, despite the extent of domestic abuse-related suicides, relatively few 'suicide' DHRs have been commissioned by local areas. These victims, and their families, remain invisible victims of domestic abuse. This is an emerging area which raises questions about which suicides count, whilst also highlighting complexities about how such DHRs should be conducted, and their potential contribution to suicide prevention strategies. This paper argues that practitioners, policymakers and researchers need to attend to this emerging area of practice.

Transforming Responses to Economic Abuse

Glinski Jenn¹, Sharp-Jeffs Nicola², Royal Kathryn³, Adisa Olumide⁴

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Transforming Responses to Economic Abuse

There has been an increase in research on economic abuse in the last decade. From the development of scales to measure economic abuse to exploring its perpetration within diverse communities, researchers have sought to build an evidence base of this often-invisible form of domestic abuse and influence responses to it. This symposium brings together four papers that explore the progress made in responding to economic abuse at the policy, institutional and banking level-with a shared focus of addressing economic abuse through systems change.

The first paper in this symposium details the inclusion of economic abuse in the Domestic Abuse Bill for England and Wales. Following on from this, the second paper presents an analysis of economic abuse within over 250 successful prosecutions throughout the first five years of the coercive or controlling behaviour offence in England and Wales. The third paper presents the research and outcomes of a collaborative placement between the University of Glasgow and the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS). The fourth paper is based on the idea that various actors (survivors, commissioners, services, communities etc) interact with each other in an 'ecosystem', which then impact on the optimisation of the evidence base on economic abuse.

The proposed symposium provides multiple, yet complimentary examples of responses to economic abuse across different arenas which either require or have led to systems change. The presentations from this symposium, compliment the two other proposed symposia on economic abuse, in providing a comprehensive overview of how economic abuse is measured, experienced within diverse communities, and responded to at micro, meso and macro levels in victim-survivors' lives.

Paper 1- 'Understanding the economics of abuse: an assessment of the economic abuse definition within the Domestic Abuse Bill' by Dr Nicola Sharp-Jeffs (Emeritus Research Fellow, Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit, London Metropolitan University)

The term 'economic abuse' was first introduced into discourse when it was identified as a tactic used by perpetrators within the Duluth Power and Control Wheel. Yet it is only recently that researchers have turned their attention to defining and understanding it. This paper draws on a review of the global and UK specific academic research literature to assess the suitability of the definition of economic abuse put forward within the Westminster Government's Domestic Abuse Bill. Whilst the focus is on Westminster policy in the UK, the case for 'naming' economic abuse in statute has wider resonance, not least because it provides a framework within which to hold perpetrators accountable and for services (statutory and voluntary) to respond.

Paper 2 – ‘Economic abuse within the offence of coercive or controlling behaviour in England and Wales’ by Dr Kathryn Royal (Honorary Fellow, Department of Sociology, Durham University)

In 2015, Section 76 of the Serious Crime Act introduced the offence of coercive or controlling behaviour in intimate or familial relationships in England and Wales. In 2017, Surviving Economic Abuse (SEA) published an analysis of economic abuse in 35 prosecutions of coercive control, finding that economic abuse was present in 60% of cases. This paper presents further analysis of economic abuse over the first five years of the offence, with many cases involving a perpetrator interfering with a victim-survivor’s ability to acquire, use or maintain economic resources. Despite this, economic abuse was rarely recognised in media reports, demonstrating an urgent need for increased understanding and awareness.

Paper 3- ‘A challenge to the system: Investigating understanding and responses to economic abuse at the Royal Bank of Scotland’ by Jenn Glinski (PhD Candidate, University of Glasgow)

A collaborative research placement between the University of Glasgow and the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) sought to raise awareness of economic abuse (EA) and investigate banking products utilised for the perpetration of economic abuse. An internal survey, one-to-one interviews, and a focus group were conducted; resulting in five key recommendations to RBS. This paper presents an overview of the research findings and discusses the recommendations which RBS/NatWest have actioned, resulting in systems change and the bank becoming a leader among UK financial institutions in addressing economic abuse.

Paper 4 - Exploring the potential application of systems thinking to assessing perceived value and affective impacts of economic abuse interventions, by Dr Olumide Adisa (Research Fellow and Head of Centre for Abuse Research, University of Suffolk)

Using case studies based on evaluations undertaken by the author, literature reviews, and personal reflections, this paper provides a constructive analysis of the ‘What works’ evidence base available on economic abuse interventions in the UK to identify ‘perspectives’, ‘boundaries’, and ‘entangled systems’, and to put forward a conceptual systems framework for optimising the evidence base on economic abuse which can be applied across a variety of settings. This paper offers a compelling analysis of how systems thinking can enhance evaluation efforts to better understand ‘What works’ for tackling economic abuse.

Domestic Violence in South Asia: Multi-stakeholder Perspectives and Practices

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Domestic Violence (DV), also often called intimate partner violence (IPV), is the most common form of violence women and girls face worldwide. Women and girls face IPV disproportionately due to social gender norms facilitating inequality, discrimination, violence, and even death. In South Asia, the prevalence of DV for women and girls who were ever-partnered, was 41.73%.

The four studies in this symposium look at gender norms, perceptions, and practices in Rajasthan and Goa in India, and among displaced Rohingya in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Though the study populations are unique and research questions vary by paper, they share in certain themes like normalization of violence, stigma, shame, honour, and dignity that is intertwined with family reputation and community acceptance in highly patriarchal societies. Findings may be relevant and useful for practitioners and researchers in this context.

Service Provider Perspectives and Practices for Survivors of Domestic Violence in Goa, India

Authors: Esther Kim and Devika Gupta

Introduction: In India, studies show 31% of women and girls experienced domestic violence. This study aimed to understand current practice, perceptions of needs, barriers, and facilitators to services, and limitations in service provision.

Methods: In-depth interviews were conducted with 15 service providers from multiple sectors. The interviews were translated and transcribed from Konkani into English, and thematically analysed.

Results: According to service providers, survivors' needs and expectations included emotional and physical support, financial aid, and employment. Providers expressed limitations in meeting certain expectations and the lack of tools such as protocols for assessing mental health and formal referral pathways. Service providers also expressed the need to address gaps surrounding safe shelters and economic empowerment.

Conclusion: Findings from this study will be used to inform the development of contextually appropriate community-based interventions.

Experiences and Needs of Survivors Experiencing Domestic Violence in Goa, India

Authors: Urvita Bhatia and Devika Gupta

Introduction: In India, domestic violence is strongly associated with marriage. Physical and mental health consequences are exacerbated by harmful norms and systems including internalised stigma and ineffective services. Our study investigated the experiences and support needs of survivors in Goa.

Methods: In-depth interviews were conducted with 35 survivors recruited through community gatekeepers. The interviews were translated and transcribed from Konkani into English, and thematically analysed.

Results: Women faced physical, emotional, economic and sexual violence from their husbands. Violence affected their emotions, relationships and productivity, but they were hindered from seeking help by factors such as shame, lack of information, and concerns about the family reputation. Experiences of help-seeking from police and others were largely unpleasant and unsuccessful.

Conclusion: Findings from this study will be used to inform the development of contextually appropriate interventions.

Domestic Violence and Displacement: Gendered Social Norms in the Rohingya Refugee Response

Authors: Megan Smith and Roshni Kapoor

Introduction: Gender norms govern the lives and behaviours of Rohingya communities yet there is little research on how displacement and the humanitarian response have resulted in redefined norms.

Methods: Using a feminist approach and qualitative research design, 27 focus group discussions and 10 key informant interviews were completed with Rohingya men and women in 8 refugee camps through a purposive sampling method.

Results: Indicators of izzot and purdah are changing – Rohingya women carefully negotiate to engage in activities considered less honourable, for traditional values. Many of these changes are highly contested and have resulted in backlash against women and girls including increased rates of intimate partner violence.

Conclusion: Findings are critical in understanding women's roles and status within families and communities, highlighting the risks and opportunities in humanitarian and displacement settings.

Formative research for the development of a male-led community program on gender-based violence (GBV) during the perinatal period in rural Rajasthan, India

Authors: Aneel Brar and Soumya Singh

Introduction: In India, up to 28% of women report violence during pregnancy.

Methods: This research explores the potential of using reformed perpetrators of violence to lead a GBV prevention campaign for young husbands. We utilized an existing maternal intervention to conduct focus group discussions and interviews with reformed perpetrators, married couples, health workers and bureaucrats from 60 villages.

Results: Women experience multiform violence resulting in pregnancy loss and depression. Isolation, male entitlement, relationship insecurity, son preference, and stigma around divorce were major themes for women's susceptibility to violence. Common coping mechanisms were self-silencing, finding employment, and religious attendance. Fear of external involvement, lack of faith in help providers and dependence were barriers to help-seeking. Stakeholders acknowledged reformed perpetrators as appropriate messengers who need to work closely with an agent of change within the family.

Conclusion: These findings serve as groundwork for the development of a violence prevention program.

The ‘new normal’: researching domestic violence and abuse during a pandemic

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When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and the subsequent lockdown and social distancing restrictions were introduced in the UK, we had no idea whether or how we would be able to continue our research in the field of domestic violence and abuse (DVA). As a team, we were hugely concerned about the impact of the pandemic on victim-survivors, and we were keen to contribute related research which would be useful, meaningful, and timely. This symposium brings together a combination of DVA research exploring the impact of the pandemic itself, alongside our reflections about how it felt, as researchers, to be conducting the research during this period. The research studies we describe include: a trial to test a perpetrator programme, and qualitative interviews with young adults impacted by intimate partner abuse, and with friends and family members of victim-survivors. We will conclude the symposium with an opportunity for inter-active discussion about the challenges encountered by the panel and audience members in conducting DVA research during this strange and difficult period.

(i) “I knew I was going to be in for it”: reflections on lockdown from victims and perpetrators (Presenter: Dr Karen Morgan)

At the start of Covid-19, we were recruiting male perpetrators into a trial to test effectiveness of a DVA perpetrator programme, and recruiting female current/ex-partners, to capture their voices and not be reliant on men’s self-reporting. With modifications, we continued with trial recruitment, but asked perpetrators and victims/survivors about the impact of Covid-19, talking to victim-perpetrator dyads, where safe to do so. These interviews reveal that impacts for many were gendered, with women taking the brunt of childcare, home-educating, and housework, even while men were home. By contrast, some men reported relationships feeling closer in lockdown with less stress over getting children to school and, lacking the option to leave the house after arguments, said they were compelled to stay and ‘talk things through’. Here we report on these findings and discuss the impact on researchers as they pieced together differing insights from our male and female participants.

(ii) The diverse impact of the pandemic on young adults who have experienced IPV (Presenter: Dr Maria Barnes)

The impact of the pandemic is not homogenous. A salutary reminder of this came through eliciting accounts of how participants had been affected by COVID as part of research into health impacts of IPV in young adults. There was a sense of stasis for some, as long-awaited trauma-informed therapy, job experience, and occupational exams were delayed or cancelled. Enforced isolation for already vulnerable people could increase negative thoughts and mental health issues. One participant described feeling as if the outside world was coming ‘at her’ through her laptop and she was losing her much-needed safe space: a re-traumatising experience from surveillance behaviours of previous controlling ex-partners. Another felt that lockdown had ‘freed’ her from the control of her abusive ex-partner’s family. The range of experiences needs exploring to understand and ameliorate negative impacts on vulnerable populations.

(iii) Friends, family members, neighbours and colleagues of DVA survivors: how experiences have changed during COVID (Presenter: Dr Alison Gregory)

80-90% percent of women experiencing DVA will seek support from informal supporters - their friends, family members, colleagues and neighbours. The pandemic has brought the importance of this informal support to the fore; the capacity of professional services is stretched, resulting in reduced access, and survivors struggle to find safe ways to communicate with professionals. Informal supporters, participating in an existing study, were asked questions in the midst of the pandemic, about how it had affected the situation and their ability to provide support. Participants described their concerns for the survivor they knew and how the communication challenges made it difficult to accurately assess the situation. They also described the resourceful approaches they had taken to continue monitoring the situation, remain in contact, thwart perpetrator behaviour, and support survivors to leave relationships.

(iv) Conducting research on sensitive and traumatic topics during a pandemic (Presenter: Dr Emma Williamson)

Researching traumatic topics can be difficult at the best of times. When the pandemic hit, and social distancing restrictions were introduced, DVA researchers encountered significant additional challenges, including:

- difficulty in assessing participants' safety and welfare, and lack of control over research environments
- intersection of disadvantage, particularly communities with less access to technology
- changes to research interview structure, with participants needing more time and input
- burdensome technology and concerns about losing connection at inopportune moments
- struggles to maintain healthy work-home boundaries

Despite the challenges, there are tools and ways of working which our team found helpful, including: giving permission for emotion, pacing work more than usual, symbolically letting go of participants' distress, activities which differentiate work from home, and an increase in usual coping strategies.

Economic Abuse from Diverse Lenses: Issues around ethnicity, language and sexual diversity

Silva-Martinez Elithet¹, Vazquez-Pagan Jenice², Ast Roxanna³, Breckenridge Jan⁴

¹University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, San Juan, Puerto Rico, ²Interamerican University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico, ³Rutgers University, School of Social Work, New Brunswick, USA, ⁴Gendered Violence Research Network (GVRN), Australia

Economic Abuse from Diverse Lenses: Issues around ethnicity, language, and sexual diversity
Moderator: Elithet Silva-Martinez, PhD

Economic abuse in the context of intimate partner violence has been a present theme in the past years given its implications for research, practice and policy on gender violence. There are multiple dimensions related to economic abuse. There has been very important work done in terms of research to measure economic abuse in order to put forward ways to integrate this work into service provision as presented in another proposed symposium on research, methods, scales for the 2021 ECDV Conference. Additionally, there is significant work on responses to economic abuse, which has also been proposed for symposium on this conference. Although, limited, another area that needs to be addressed is the many dimensions on economic abuse within diverse groups.

The proposed symposium on economic abuse from diverse lenses aims to present three papers on research and practice with Latinas, First Nations communities and LGBTQ persons, in order to share how economic abuse is articulated within these groups. The first paper addresses the work done with Latinas, and specifically how cultural norms impact the experience of economic abuse, as well as how other cultural norms can help in promoting economic empowerment for Latina survivors of IPV. The second paper presents economic abuse within the First Nations people broader family system, while bringing forward a much-needed conversation on de-colonisation of financial management within this community. The third paper represents an important step towards research LGBTQ survivors as it relates to economic abuse.

We hope that the proposed symposium will contribute in propelling a dialogue on the many shades to economic abuse and how through intersectional approaches we can help further services and policies that are inclusive and embracing. In connection to the other two proposed symposia on economic abuse, we hope to also expand on the multidimensionality of economic abuse in the context of IPV.

Economic abuse among Latinas
Elithet Silva-Martinez, PhD; Jenice Vazquez-Pagan, PhD

Traditionally, physical, emotional and sexual abuse have been identified as the main forms of intimate partner violence. Although in Latin America and the Caribbean, economic abuse is recognized within intimate relationships, there is limited literature on the particularities of economic abuse among Latinas. Cultural norms like marianismo and machismo, may explain why many survivors are forced to remain dependency, being one of the possible barriers to exiting an abusive relationship. For many Latinas, patriarchal cultural norms on marriage and intimate relationships, as well as patriarchal norms around women managing finances may pose a difficult dilemma: to continue to receive abuse from their partners or to live in poverty. This paper presents the experience of Puerto Rico and offers recommendations to address economic abuse through collectivism in community-based work as well as in advancing social policies towards economic empowerment.

Economic Abuse and First Nations communities – what do we know?

Prof. Jan Breckenridge

The Gendered Violence Research Network at UNSW, Sydney in partnership with Australia's largest financial institution, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, conducted a comprehensive review of academic and relevant policy literature to identify and analyse existing research on economic and financial abuse in First Nations communities, with a particular focus on Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences.

While First Nations people may experience economic and financial abuse within intimate partner relationships, the evidence suggests that this abuse can and does also occur within the broader family system and that older people and elders may be more at risk. First Nations people may be at greater risk of economic and financial abuse due to factors such as cultural norms around shared wealth and resources and cultural expectations around the management of finances and caregiving roles in families. This paper will provide further detail of the findings and will consider what de-colonisation of financial management in First Nations communities might mean.

Economic Abuse Among LGBTQ Survivors in the United States

Roxanna Ast, PhD(c)

Research suggests that LGBTQ individuals experience intimate partner violence (IPV) at a similar or higher rate compared to their cisgender and heterosexual counterparts. However, even though researchers have been studying IPV since the 1970's, to date, less than 3% of all violence related studies in the United States have focused on the victimization experience(s) of LGBTQ survivors. Furthermore, despite an increased interest in economic abuse in the field of intimate partner violence, a review of the literature will reveal that zero studies have examined experiences of economic abuse and its impact within the LGBTQ community.

Using qualitative methodology, this study collects data through in-depth interviews with LGBTQ survivors. The goal of this study is to gain a better understanding of what economic abuse looks like for LGBTQ survivors and ways in which research, practice, and policy can be inclusive of LGBTQ survivors when addressing issues of economic abuse.

Honour-based Violence and Abuse: Family Intervention initiatives in the Nordic Countries

Sérida Rana¹, Aapakallio Johanna³, Malmqvist Christina⁵, Aursand Pia Camilla, Borchgrevink Catharina⁶, Linnel Hanna²

¹The Danish Agency For International Recruitment And Integration, Valby, Danmark, ²Department of Social Work, Stockholm University, Sweden, ³SOPU-work/Loisto settlementti ry, Finland, ⁴Competence Center for Crime Prevention, Norway, ⁵The Swedish Expert Team on honour-related violence and oppression, the County administrative board, Östergötland, Sweden, ⁶The Norwegian Mediation and Reconciliation Service, Oslo, Norway

This joint Nordic panel will present measures taken in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Finland for preventing and countering honour-based violence and abuse (henceforth HBV/A). Common for such measures, is an anchorage in the Nordic welfare model, entitling all citizens to social services and protection schemes, regardless of nationality, gender, religion etc. As such, they benefit greatly from existing structures and initiatives in the social services, targeted the wider society. Such schemes include state, regional, and local actors, often organised around principles of multi-agency. However, implementation and political mandate vary in each country. Within this context, this panel presents four distinct initiatives, targeted perpetrators of HBV/A. The four initiatives apply different approaches, but all consider victim safety as a crucial element.

From Denmark and Norway, the initiatives are Family Therapy (2019-present) and Mediation Service (2017-2019), respectively. Both similar in their goal to generate behavioural change in conflict resolution within families, affected by HBV/A (i.e. parent/child relation). The former applies a multidisciplinary approach of socioecological theory and structural family therapy, whilst the latter bases its method on Cross-cultural Conflict Mediation. From Sweden, the initiative National Expert Team (2014- present) stands on its own compared to the former two. The team's preventive element lies in its competency to coordinate and support authorities and organisations handling cases of HBV/A. Finally, encompassing a combination of the Danish/Norwegian and Swedish approaches, Finland's SOPU Work (2012-present), based in the Loisto settlementti ry NGO, offers support and guidance for families affected by HBV/A, as well as for professionals handling such cases.

Recognisably, all approaches have a common goal, yet achieved through different means. As such, the panel will offer a platform for inspiration and discussion for professionals, authorities and organisations from around the globe, embarked upon the mission of preventing and countering of HBV/A.

Denmark

This paper presents main approaches and results of a family therapy method for early prevention of honour-based violence and abuse (HBV/A) on youths in Denmark. The method, undertook in 2019-2020, is developed in a collaboration between the Danish Agency of International Recruitment and Integration, University College Copenhagen, and Realize Consultancy. The main goal of the family therapy is to generate behavioural change within the family (i.e. child/parent), and thereby healthier dynamics and conflict resolutions. The method is unique in its utilisation of a multidisciplinary approach, combining socioecological theory as the basis for an holistic family assessment, and methodologies from structural family therapy, for generating behavioural change. Key elements of the method include multi-agency, holistic assessment, and cultural competences. Specialised tools supporting all processes of the family therapy are developed, including evaluation and effect documentation.

Norway

This paper presents the Norwegian Mediation initiative for cases of honour-based violence and abuse (HBV/A). It targets young adults under police protection due to HBV/A in need of reconciliation with their families, and parents who are motivated to re-connect with their children. The project was conducted in 2017 to 2019, in a collaboration between Stovner Police Station and Enerhaugen Family office in Oslo, applying advisor Farwha Nielsen's method of Cross-cultural Conflict Mediation. The paper will present key results from the project evaluation, and methodologies and results of the 35 cases, one third of which having yielded a safe reconciliation between the youth and their families.

Sweden

Several interventions have been initiated in Sweden, targeted families perpetrating honour-based violence and abuse. However, experiences suggest that family-oriented interventions might evoke feelings of ambivalence, regarding the scale of safety arrangements and family contact for the children. Additionally, they often lack structured risk assessments and seldom involve police cooperation and a systematic documentation, which leads to scarce evidence-based knowledge on their outcome. This paper will introduce preliminary findings from recent family-intervention projects in Sweden, and give examples of the challenges they face. The paper will conclude with introducing the National Expert Team against Honour-related Violence and Oppression, drawing on insights from their work and experiences with authorities and organisations, particularly concerning survivor safety measures

Finland

Sopu Work in Finland has offered support and advise on honour-based violence and abuse (HBV/A) for the past ten years. The NGO is based within Loisto settlementti's Unit for Preventing and Solving Honour-related Conflicts and Violence, with several branches across the country. This paper will focus on Sopu's efforts, targeted perpetrators of HBV/A, especially parents, and share its experiences with such efforts. Through case examples, practices in child/parent conflict resolution will be given, addressing initial risk assessment, consent, communication, and parent contact. The paper will also address specific elements that have yielded positive results, e.g. providing parents with conflict tackling tools, and including siblings in the effort. Altogether, the effort has supported several family reunifications as well as better mental health for the families as a whole.

Gender-based Violence and Social Work Research in Southeast Europe

Vjollca Krasniqi¹, Bašić Sanela², Duci Veronika³, Kasseri Zacharoula⁴, Bejko Erika³, Dhëmbo Elona³

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³University of Tirana, Tirana, Albania, ⁴University of Crete, Crete, Greece

Symposium

Title: Gender-based Violence and Social Work Research in Southeast Europe

The symposium brings together researchers from four Southeast European countries - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Albania and Greece - to discuss the various research projects being conducted in their respective countries on different types of gender-based violence. The four countries have different histories, yet there are some commonalities in terms of gender inequalities that will be discussed during the symposium. The special topics will be the increase in domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic, gender-based violence among young people, drug abuse and domestic violence, and the patriarchal legacy of violence against women in today's society. One of the common characteristics of the speakers is that they are all educators and researchers in social work and members of South East European Women Academic Leadership Network.

1

A Pandemic within A Pandemic: Domestic Violence during the Covid-19 lockdown in Kosovo

author: Vjollca Krasniqi

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on every aspect of social life, institutions, and the everyday interactions exposing long-standing structural inequalities and disparate gender relations. In Kosovo, having been relegated from a private affair to a public policy issue, domestic violence has not eased, but has endured and intensified during the Covid-19 pandemic. Situated within Covid-19 pandemic: a context of uncertainty, conflict, and emergency, the paper examines domestic violence and institutional responses to address violence within the home. Focusing on media representations, the paper maps out the dominant discourses, patterns of violence at home, and interventions as part of the Covid-19 response. The paper will argue for the need to place gender at the centre of the Covid-19 recovery to address domestic violence and wider structural inequalities in Kosovo in order to build a resilient society with full respect of human rights and gender equality.

2

Progress and Pitfalls of Evolving Regime for Protection of Women against Domestic Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina

author: Sanela Bašić

In Bosnia and Herzegovina context, the recognition of gender-based and domestic violence is rooted in particular experience of 1990's war, when gender-based sexual violence (rape) has been used as a widespread war strategy. It gave impetus to development of support services for women survivors of war rape. In the subsequent process of transition, international actors and civil society organizations re-directed the focus towards the violence committed in the private sphere, by focusing particularly on child abuse and neglect, and violence against women. Their advocacy efforts resulted in development of legal and social policies and services for women survivors of domestic violence (including the ratification of Istanbul Convention). However, the lived experience of Bosnia and Herzegovina women are impregnated by various forms of gender-based violence; one in two women has experienced (domestic) violence since the age of 15. The presentation examines the complex relationships between gender and (domestic) violence in a militarized, post-conflict, patriarchal society.

3

Gender based violence in youth intimate partners: Evidence from Albania

author: Elona Dhëmbo, Veronika Duci, Erika Bejko

A growing body of research confirms that dating violence/youth intimate partner violence (youth IPV) constitutes a public health and societal issue important to combat. Large numbers of young people are subjected to violence within their romantic relationships. Studies show that the consequences of such victimization can be severe. Sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence are important problems that have an enormous and long term physical and mental health impact on victims. The increased use of Information and Communication Technology has led to the rise of a new form of gender based violence. Girls and women face multiple forms of technology-related violence including non-consensual intimate images known as "revenge pornography", doxing, blackmail, bullying, stalking, and sexual harassment. This research provides evidence and insight in understanding the gendered nature of the incidence of intimate partner violence among youth in Albania.

4

Domestic violence and alcohol/substance use: Case Study Greece

author: Zacharoula Kasserli

It is widely known that the relationship between domestic violence and alcohol/substance use is a complex one: often both perpetrators and survivors of domestic violence have problems with alcohol/drugs. The presentation focus on social work with women who are suffering from alcohol/drug use and/or live with a partner who uses alcohol/drug in a violent relationship. It is based on qualitative interviews with social workers in Greece. The basic research questions are a) what kind of challenges the professionals face, to support women and b) how they respond to those challenges. The research will start in January 2021, and some preliminary results will be presented. The main aim is to reflect on the contribution of empowerment-feminist social work may have as a theoretical framework for supporting women who face multiple problems in their lives.

The Everydayness of Femicide: Speaking of Life, Living with Death'

Walklate Sandra¹, Fitz-Gibbon Kate², Condry Rachel⁴, Miles Caroline⁵, Mooney Jayne³, Ortiz Rodriguez Yolanda³

¹Liverpool University, Liverpool, United Kingdom, ²Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, ³John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, New York, United States, ⁴Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom, ⁵Manchester University, Manchester, United Kingdom

The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (2018) estimates that in 2017 alone 87,000 women worldwide were killed internationally, of which 30,000 women were killed by a current or former intimate partner. While the prevalence of femicide varies across the globe there is no doubt that it has come to be understood as a global problem. In the light of the recognition of femicide as a global problem much recent work in the field has become pre-occupied with the problems and possibilities of how to count such acts of fatal violence against women. Whilst not disputing the importance of the need to count as a basis for action this panel is concerned to push further understandings of what to count as femicide. Each of the papers in different ways is concerned to render visible those deaths invisibilised in femicide counts whether they be generated by administration data, femicide observatories or other forms of data collection. This focus on what to count draws attention to the hidden ways in which women in different contexts across the globe speak of living their lives whilst living with death.

Measuring slow femicide: From "thin" to "thick" counts..

Dr. Kate Fitz-Gibbon, Monash University and Prof Sandra Walklate, Liverpool and Monash University.

This paper starts from the position that 'thin' counts measure who does what to whom. Whilst such counts are justifiable they constitute a surface manifestation of the deeper embrace of social ecological theory within this field. This theory fails to assign explanatory power or salience to any one variable. This tendency facilitates a narrow vision of what does and does not count as femicide: 'thin' counts. If femicide was viewed through a wider lens to incorporate all those lives curtailed and shortened as a result of living with men's violence(s), femicide counts would look somewhat different. We call these 'thick' counts. A 'thick' count focuses attention on not only who does what to whom but also on what with, where, and when. It brings to the fore the realities and costs of living with men's violence. Thick counts broaden and deepen our understanding of the nature and extent of femicide. (150 words)

Femicide Revisited: An Intersectional Analysis of the Experiences of Undocumented Women in the US

Yolanda Ortiz Rodriguez, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

Jayne Mooney, John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Graduate Center, CUNY

This paper is based on a study that has followed the experiences of undocumented women, mostly Latina, in the US who have experienced domestic violence. In revisiting the concept of "femicide" we argue that, firstly, femicide has to be understood through an intersectional lens that takes account of gender, race, class, culture and sexuality within the context of colonialism and nation building. And, secondly, it should be analyzed as a process and not just as an individual act of lethal violence. In focusing on specific communities the complexity of femicide as social and cultural phenomenon becomes evident and underscores the importance of a micro and macro level of analysis. We focus on the impact that domestic violence, structural and state violence has on the lives of undocumented women.

'The Everydayness of Matricide: Understanding Gendered Patterns and Histories in Filial Violence Trajectories'

Rachel Condry and Caroline Miles

This paper focuses on the important and persistent phenomenon of women killed by their sons. We argue that parricide (the killing of parents) is a gendered form of violence, given that women are disproportionately represented as victims compared to other forms of violence (aside from domestic homicide by current or ex partners), and that son-mother killings are a form of femicide. Not only do they fall under literal definitions of femicide in that they involve women being killed by men, but they also, we contend, fall under motivation-driven definitions as the killing of women by men because they are women. Drawing upon analysis of Homicide Index data and 54 case studies of parricide in the UK, we show that in many cases women are killed by their adult-aged mentally ill sons, within a broader context of 'parental proximity' and everyday maternal caregiving which ultimately renders them vulnerable to fatal violence.

Exploring the Impact of Economic Abuse on Women and Children: A Multi-Country Perspective

Johnson Laura¹, Stylianou Amanda², Chen Yafan³, Arnold Ally⁴, Chowbey Punita⁵, Scott Ayesha⁶

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This symposium will focus on the impact of economic abuse among women and their children. Economic abuse is a form of intimate partner violence (IPV) in which an individual controls their partner's access to economic resources. Abusers use a range of tactics to achieve financial dependency; these include restricting their partners' access to resources, exploiting them financially, or preventing their partners from participating in work or school. Approximately 76-99% of IPV survivors experience this form of abuse, which can damage their financial well-being and cause financial insecurity years after the relationship has ended.

The four papers in this inter-disciplinary symposium address diverse aspects of the impact of economic abuse on women and their children, including financial, social, and health-related consequences across the life course. The panel will explore experiences of a diverse group of women, including pregnant women, mothers of dependent children, and women later in life. Methods utilized by the researchers include a systematic review of economic abuse literature, grounded theory, and quantitative and qualitative research methods. Study samples were collected from the United States, India, Pakistan and the United Kingdom, and New Zealand. As part of this symposium, implications for research, policy, and practice will be discussed.

Systematic Review of the Literature

Amanda Stylianou, Laura Johnson, Yafan Chen, & Ally Arnold

The purpose of this systematic review was to examine the current state of the literature on the impact of economic abuse on survivors on IPV. A total of 38 articles were identified as being relevant for inclusion in the systematic review, of which 26 were quantitative, which is the focus of this study. A total of 8 countries were represented, although the majority of the literature (n = 17) came from scholars in the United States. Impacts of economic abuse on survivors reported in the literature include decreased mental and physical health, economic self-sufficiency, and quality of life, along with increased material hardship. While study findings illustrate the long-lasting negative consequences of economic abuse on survivors, there are still significant gaps in the literature around the impact of economic abuse and a need for a more nuanced understanding of its long-term effects.

Material Hardship and Economic Abuse among Pregnant Women during COVID-19

Laura Johnson

In early 2020, the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic increased economic turmoil globally, which disproportionately impacted women. Researchers report a decline in women's mental health and increased incidences of IPV. The pandemic has also created unique challenges for pregnant women, including financial stress over childcare expenses, concerns about the impact of COVID on maternal and fetal health, and ongoing healthcare costs. The purpose of this study was to explore pregnant women's experiences of material hardship during the pandemic in the United States. Quantitative data was collected in January 2021 using Qualtrics panel service (n = 183). Findings from linear regression analyses showed 73% of the sample experienced at least one form of material hardship in the past 12 months. Factors significantly associated with material hardship were economic abuse, economic self-sufficiency, financial strain, and posttraumatic stress disorder.

Impact of Material Economic Abuse on South Asian Mothers in Britain, India, and Pakistan

Punita Chowbey

This research focuses the findings from 91 in-depth interviews with Pakistani Muslim and Gujarati Hindu mothers with dependent children in the UK, India and Pakistan. Married women representing a variety of employment categories were recruited through community networks. Using an intersectional approach, the paper will demonstrate impact of economic abuse in several areas: impact on nutrition of the family members due to inequitable control of shopping leading to poor utilization of food budget; financial wellbeing of women including compromised labour market position and financial exclusion; poor allocation of resources towards children's educational and health needs, impact on ability to engage with services and to maintain social network. Policy makers need to appreciate the impact of economic abuse with reference to specific circumstances such as motherhood, migration status, household composition and women's ability to report violence in context of linguistic needs and fear of negative outcomes.

Economic Abuse in Aotearoa New Zealand: The Weaponization of Financial Hardship

Ayesha Scott

Economic and financial abuse is behavior that restricts or removes another person's access to money, economic resources, or participation in financial decisions, or alternatively exploits their financial resources for the abuser's gain. It restricts victims' autonomy, agency and liberty, is a mechanism of partner and systemic entrapment, and often continues post-separation. Financial insecurity, including the threat or reality of material hardship, is both a mechanism of financial control and a consequence of the abuse. This paper draws on in-depth interviews with 23 New Zealand women from a range of socioeconomic backgrounds and life-stages, all with lived experience of economic abuse, to illustrate financial hardship as a mechanism of control both during the relationship and long after it ends.

Homicide Abuse Learning Together (HALT)

Chantler Khatidja¹, Duxbury Joy¹, Haines-Delmont Alina¹, Craig Elaine¹, Bracewell Kelly², Stanley Nicky², Clegg Andrew², Jones Cassandra⁴, McManus Michelle³, Almond Louise⁵, Rigby Leanne⁵

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Homicide Abuse Learning Together (HALT)

Globally domestic homicides are estimated to be 50,000 annually (UNODC, 2019) with increases anticipated due to continuing austerity and restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic (Grierson, 2020a; Rahim, 2019; WHO, 2020). HALT, a UK based study of domestic homicide aims to map, analyse, and influence policy and practice to prevent future domestic homicides, utilising multiple methods organised in three work packages (WP). The objectives are to: conduct a systematic review of domestic homicide reviews (DHRs) internationally to inform future developments of DHRs; analyse all available DHRs to identify antecedents of homicides; explore the journeys of DVA victim/survivors, families and agencies to investigate good practice, lost opportunities for interventions and identify areas for strengthening professional and policy responses to DVA.

WP1 is a systematic literature review to examine the learning from domestic homicide reviews at an international level (Paper 1); WP2 is a mixed methods analysis of DHRs to identify potential risk factors and contextual factors (Papers 3 and 4). WP3 uses experience-based co-design (EBCD), an action orientated methodology to interrogate the utility, learning and future development of services from DHRs and key stakeholders (Paper 2).

The Principal Investigator/Symposium convener will offer a brief overview of the study, followed by four papers:

Domestic Homicide Review Committees' Recommendations and Impacts: A Systematic Review

Presenter: Cassandra Jones

Other authors: Kelly Bracewell, Andrew Clegg, Nicky Stanley, Khatidja Chantler

DVFRs/DHRs are multi-agency reviews aimed at reducing domestic homicides. This is the first study to systematically review studies that examine DVFR/DHR recommendations, the impact of these recommendations, as well as proposals for improving DVFR/DHR processes. A narrative synthesis was adopted due to the diversity of the 11 studies reviewed. Despite the variation reported between the studies, common themes from DVFR/DHR recommendations identified included: training and awareness; service provision and coordination; and recommendations for children. In terms of DVFR/DHR processes, standardisation, diverse team membership and additional resources were highlighted. None of the studies in this review provided evidence that DVFR/DHRs reduce DVA or domestic homicides, which may be due to a lack of data on implementing recommendations. Implications for policies and practice will be highlighted.

Interviews with professionals involved in the domestic homicide review (DHR) process

Presenters: Alina Haines-Delmont and Kelly Bracewell

Other Author: Khatidja Chantler

This paper presents emerging results from interviews with professionals involved in the DHR process, recruited from two locations in England and Wales. Professionals included key representatives from the local authority council, National Health Service, the police, probation service or NGOs (n=18). Interviews elicited their experiences of DHRs and views on family involvement, implementation of recommendations and barriers and facilitators to the DHR process. A thematic analysis was applied to interview data. Emerging findings highlight key enablers or limiters to DHR practice, e.g. cultural and systemic factors, the role and skills of the chair, the way the review is negotiated, the role of families and significant others, the way learning is obtained and actioned. Examples of good practice and recommendations for improving policy and practice are also highlighted.

Differentiating Intimate and Non-intimate domestic homicides: A multivariate analysis.

Presenter: Michelle McManus

Other Authors: Louise Almond, Leanne Rigby

The primary aim of this study was to explore whether themes existed within a sample of domestic homicide cases to begin building empirical models in the field. Using 141 cases, a smallest space analysis was conducted on 28 variables. This provided a visual representation of themes of co-occurring behaviours, and victim/perpetrator characteristics to generate distinct typologies. Three distinct themes were identified, of which 55% of cases could be classified as mentally ill (28%), dysregulated (19%) or chronic abuse (8%). Further analyses revealed non-intimate domestic homicides are more likely to be the dominant mentally ill type. The findings provide empirically validated themes for domestic homicides, although only half of cases could be assigned to a dominant theme. This typology will make pathways to this offence more easily identifiable and allow for more effective intervention techniques.

Utilising Domestic Homicide Reviews to prevent Adult Family Domestic Homicide

Presenters: Kelly Bracewell, Joy Duxbury

Other Authors: Alina Haines, Cassandra Jones, Elaine Craig, Khatidja Chantler

This presentation reports on a thematic documentary analysis of 66 Adult Family Homicide (AFH) Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) in England and Wales collected between 2016-2019. AFH is defined as non-intimate partner familial homicide where victim or perpetrator is over 16 years old.

Analysis identified five key intersecting issues: mental health and substance/alcohol misuse, criminal behaviour histories, childhood trauma, financial issues and the dynamics of care as antecedents in AFH. Findings indicate that, given their contact with both victims and perpetrators, criminal justice agencies, adult social care and mental health services, are ideally placed to identify important risk and contextual factors.

This presentation highlights that risk and dynamics relating to AFH are complex, offering analysis of social-structural and relational-contextual factors influencing AFH domestic homicide.

International perspectives on learning from domestic homicides

Devaney John¹, **Vatnar Solveig K B**^{2,3}, Friestad Christine², Bjørkly Stål^{3,2}, **Graham Laurie**⁴, Jun Hyun-Jin⁴, Gover-Chamlou Ametisse⁴, Kim Jeongsuk⁵, Frederick John^{1,6}, Macy Rebecca J.⁵, **Rowlands James**⁷, **Alisic Eva**⁸, Joy Kathryn⁸, Lamberti Vincent⁹, Marinkovic Kati⁸

¹University Of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, ²Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway, ³Molde University College, Molde, Norway, ⁴University of Maryland-Baltimore, Baltimore, USA, ⁵University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, USA, ⁶Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, ⁷University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom, ⁸University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia, ⁹Fringe Dweller Films, Melbourne, Australia

Overview

While domestic homicide has been gathering increasing public and professional attention, the rates of such homicides have not altered significantly. There is growing international research and information from domestic homicide reviews to inform policy makers and those providing services. This is starting to shape how we understand this phenomenon, the attempts that need to be taken to reduce the incidence of deaths, and the support required for bereaved family members and practitioners working with surviving family members.

This symposium brings together work from across four countries with universal relevance to address questions such as:

- whether the scale and nature of domestic homicides has changed over time?
- what do we know about the deaths of children in the context of intimate partner violence?
- what role does emotion play in undertaking domestic homicide reviews?
- how might we better educate and support professionals currently working with children and young people bereaved by domestic homicide?

Paper 1: Intimate partner homicide in Norway – stability or changes in more recent times?

Authors: Solveig K B Vatnar, PhD; Christine Friestad, PhD; Stål Bjørkly, PhD.

Background: The first encompassing scientific investigation of all intimate partner homicides in Norway between 1990-2012 was published in 2015. A recurring question has been whether substantial changes have occurred in more recent times, leading to a different empirical landscape.

Methods: Data included all intimate partner homicides from 1990 to 2019 with a final conviction. We conducted adjusted logistic regression analyses to scrutinize differences between the two periods. To investigate prevalence changes over time we conducted Poisson regression.

Findings: During the time span there were 224 intimate partner homicides with a final conviction. Results indicated some reductions concerning prevalence and rates. Several rates and characteristics were stable, while sentence length had increased.

Conclusions and implications: There were no observed changes to the finding that a majority of intimate partner homicides had observed risk factors. There is need for studies covering longer time spans and about professionals' managing codes of confidentiality and mandatory reporting.

Paper 2: The prevalence and characteristics of child deaths related to intimate partner violence: A systematic review

Authors: Laurie M. Graham, PhD; Hyun-Jin Jun, PhD; Ametisse Gover-Chamlou, BA; Jeongsuk Kim, PhD; John Devaney, PhD; John Frederick, PhD; Rebecca J. Macy, PhD.

Abstract: Globally, intimate partner violence (IPV) results in the deaths of children under age 18. However, little is known about this understudied and egregious issue. This review sought to systematically locate and synthesize existing international research on child deaths, that occur within the context of abusive intimate relationships. Information extracted and analyzed from empirical literature included: details on the setting in which death occurred, prevalence of IPV-related child deaths, perpetrator and victim characteristics, data sets and methods used to identify and describe deaths, and recommendations for policy and practice. Findings and implications for research, policy, and practice will be discussed, with the aims of seeking to understand and prevent IPV-related child deaths.

Paper 3: The emotional work of homicide review in the United Kingdom

Author: James Rowlands

Abstract: In England and Wales, Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) examine domestic violence deaths and seeks to identify learning to improve responses to abuse and prevent future homicides. DHRs involve a range of participants including professionals and family members. However, the challenges and promises of participation, from the distress of sharing or hearing testimony to the desire to represent a victim well or to bring about change, have been little considered. Nor has the extent to which emotion is used in DHRs. Drawing on data from a mixed methodology doctoral research project, this paper reports on findings about emotional work in and by DHRs, focusing on the presence, absence or regulation of emotion. The findings have implications for DHR participants, as well as for policymakers and researchers, in better recognising the role of emotion in knowledge generation.

Paper 4: Listen – An Australian video series for practitioners working with young people bereaved by domestic homicide

Authors: Eva Alisic, PhD; Kathryn Joy; Vincent Lamberti; Kati Marinkovic

Abstract: Domestic homicide disrupts all aspects of children and young people's lives. In the aftermath, police, family courts, child protection, family members and other adults make far-reaching decisions about children and young people's futures. Decisions about living arrangements and guardianship, contact with the perpetrator, and support for young people's well-being in the face of grief and loss. In this presentation, we will introduce 'Listen', an online series of 10 short videos that give voice to the experiences of a young person. Listen focuses on the story of Kathryn, whose mother was killed by her father when she was only a few months old. It brings up reflective questions for practitioners currently working with children and young people bereaved by domestic homicide specifically, or affected by complex trauma more broadly.

Troubling Assumptions about Domestic Violence Using Narrative Methods

Hiebert-Murphy Diane¹, Johnson Alanna E. S.¹, Kovachik Katherine M.¹, Chou Sharon S.¹

¹*University Of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada*

Public discourse reflects various assumptions about domestic violence shaped by ideology, research, theory, and cultural context. While not necessarily explicitly named, these cultural understandings are reflected in media, in social policy, in programs, and in practice. Further, they create powerful frameworks within which individuals make meaning of their experiences. While such frameworks can support individuals in their efforts to navigate the trauma and challenges of domestic violence, they can also create tensions when they do not align with lived experience. This symposium explores how various cultural/dominant understandings of domestic violence are reflected in the narratives of those impacted by domestic violence. Following a discussion of how an intersectionality analysis integrated within narrative methods can be used to reflect critically on current understandings of domestic violence, three qualitative studies are presented which expose dominant narratives about what constitutes “healthy” intimate relationships, recovery from domestic violence, and typologies of domestic violence. The ways in which participants attempt to align their experiences to frameworks based on these dominant narratives are explored along with points of tension between these dominant narratives and lived experiences. The contributions of an intersectionality analysis to challenging current dominant narratives is emphasized with implications for research, practice, and policy discussed.

Integrating Narrative Methods and Intersectionality Analysis to Interrogate Assumptions about Domestic Violence – Diane Hiebert-Murphy

Narrative theory speaks to processes by which individuals create a sense of identity that provides unity and purpose to their lives and contributes to their well-being. In response to domestic violence, individuals are challenged to create a coherent narrative that makes meaning of these experiences. This process occurs within a cultural context that offers dominant/master narratives about domestic violence. This paper discusses how narrative analysis can be a useful methodology to expose existing dominant narratives and examine the ways in which they facilitate or hinder individuals’ meaning making of domestic violence. The importance of integrating intersectionality, with its focus on social context, into such analysis is discussed. Contributions of a framework that integrates narrative theory and intersectionality for research and practice are highlighted.

Narratives of Women in Domestic Violence Shelters: Views of Intimate Partner Relationships – Alanna E. S. Johnson

This research addressed how women who have experienced domestic violence construct and make meaning of their relationships in light of dominant cultural narratives about intimate relationships. Analysis of interviews with eight women in a domestic violence shelter revealed how women experiencing violence in their relationships attempt to align with dominant narratives about “healthy” relationships. The women addressed inconsistencies between the cultural narrative and their experiences by compartmentalizing the violence through an addictions lens, constructing pre/post violence narratives, and shifting how they assessed their relationships to include their social contexts. This research highlights the negative outcomes that can result from disconnection between women’s lived experience and dominant relationship narratives. Recommendations for service providers and policy makers, and directions for future research are discussed.

“It has to get better”: How a Recovery Narrative Impacts Women Transitioning out of a Domestic Violence Shelter - Katherine M. Kovachik

This research examined the experiences of 11 women as they returned to the community following a shelter stay. Interviews were conducted when women were leaving shelter, 4 weeks later, and 6 months later. Participants’ narratives existed along a spectrum from domestic violence-centric to social marginalization-focused depending on the women’s social context. Domestic violence was not the major focus of all, or even most of the narratives. A cultural master narrative of Recovery following domestic violence was used by women to shape their narratives. As inconsistencies emerged, participants worked to adapt the master narrative and make sense of the discrepancies. The Recovery narrative helped some women to increase their hopefulness, motivation, and sense of control. However, women facing the most structural barriers were unable to align, resulting in frustration, a sense of personal weakness, and hopelessness. Theoretical and practice implications are discussed.

Rethinking Typologies of Violence: Women’s and Men’s Narratives of Violence in their Couple Relationship – Sharon S. Chou

Using a qualitative-dominant mixed-methods design, this research explored the experiences of women and men in heterosexual relationships who were seeking treatment following domestic violence. The dominant narrative suggesting that there are ‘typologies’ of domestic violence was inconsistent with participants’ experiences of the conflict and violence in their relationships. While quantitative data suggested that the level of violence in the participants’ relationships was most consistent with less severe and reciprocal violence, themes of fear, power, and control were present in the women’s narratives. The findings suggest that different patterns of abusive behaviours can exist in the same relationship at different points in time. This research underscores the importance of a critical lens regarding ‘typologies’ of domestic violence when working with couples with a history of domestic violence.

Intimate partner homicide in Slovenia pre- and post-covid-19

Plesničar Mojca¹, Bertok Eva, Briški Lora, Pavšič Mrevlje Tinkara

¹*Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia*, ²*University of Maribor, Ljubljana, Slovenia*

The presentations address the notion of intimate partner homicide in Slovenia. First, they portray a general picture of such cases' main characteristics in the past decades. While trying to understand the different dynamics in the cases, the first presentations address both options: cases when women are victims and cases when women are perpetrators of the offences. The second presentation focuses on the official response to such killings. As the first one, it stems from an analysis of official judgments and looks at how judges reason their decision to convict or acquit, and, their justifications for the different sentences such cases produce.

This general picture, painted through a longitudinal lens of over two decades, has changed drastically in the past year. The covid crisis and the response to the pandemic have put significant strains on society as a whole and individuals and their relationships more specifically. Our third presentation offers a wider literature review of intimate partner homicide offenders' characteristics – specifically focusing on both male and female offenders. The panel's final presentation, however, looks more specifically at intimate partner homicide in Slovenia in the covid period. The analysis is based on publically available data as legal proceedings have not nearly been finalised but offers an initial insight into how the pandemic and our responses to it have shaped changes in homicide as well.

Eva Bertok, Mojca Plesničar

Intimate partner homicide in Slovenia: characteristics through time

Our analysis is based on a dataset of over 500 homicide cases decided on by Slovenian courts in the years between 1991 and 2016. This covers almost all cases in that period and thus offers a unique insight into Slovenian homicides in general.

About a quarter of those is intimate partner homicides – partly committed against current and partly against former intimate partners. The presentation focuses on their main features, looking at offender and victim characteristics (gender, addiction, alcohol abuse, prior record, etc.), their past relationship, potential prior violence, details of the crime and the circumstances surrounding it. Moreover, we specifically consider the offender's stance towards the offence and the final sentence passed.

Mojca Plesničar, Eva Bertok

Judicial decision-making in intimate partner homicide cases: a qualitative outlook

This presentation stems from the same dataset as the first one in this panel. However, the focus here is the official response to the homicides. We are interested in how the cases have been processed (time, evidence, experts) as well as the courts' final decisions, especially the sentences passed in these cases.

This paper uses mixed methods, it is partly based on the quantitative analysis used in the previous presentation, but that is supplemented by a qualitative analysis of selected court judgments that sheds a more detailed light on the reasoning of the courts. We are especially interested in the differences between the official response to male and female offenders.

Tinkara Pavšič Mrevlje

Can psychological characteristics help identify risk factors for male perpetration of intimate partner homicide?

The presentation offers an overview of psychological findings about the perpetrators of intimate partner homicides. The characteristics of female perpetrators are different from those of male perpetrators. In terms of motive, women commit intimate partner homicides mostly in self-defense or out of desperation, and men when faced with (potential) separation.

As the vast majority of perpetrators are men, the studies usually focus on them. Their prominent psychological characteristics include jealousy and possessiveness, expressed in controlling behaviour and previous violent acts toward the victim (e. g. threats, stalking, and physical violence).

When looking for specific psychopathology among male perpetrators, the review shows that the research findings are quite discordant. While some show more frequent mental disorders in comparison to the general population, others found them to be minimally present or comparable with epidemiological data at most.

Lora Briški, Eva Bertok, Mojca Plesničar

Intimate partner homicide and the covid pandemic

The covid-19 pandemic has had a particular impact on intrapersonal relationships and family life. This paper explores how those changed circumstances correlate with intimate partner homicide in Slovenia. We use a mixed-methods approach to try to answer that question. We base our analysis on statistical data available at the level of police and the prosecution. However, as Slovenia's number of such cases is generally meagre (the total number of homicide cases in Slovenia has been about 15-20 per year in the past years), a sole statistical analysis would not give much insight into the issues we are interested in.

Hence, we have opted to include a media report study – looking qualitatively into the cases that have occurred in the past year. We have chosen a number of different media outlets and sought information on the cases. We attempt to combine that relatively detailed accounts with general findings about homicide in Slovenia and search for commonalities and differences as compared to previous years.

Intimate Partner Violence and Abuse in the UK Military Community: Mixed Methods Study of Prevalence and Risk Factors, Influence of Military Life, and Barriers to Helpseeking and Management.

MacManus Deidre¹, Lane Rebecca¹, Gribble Rachael², Alves-Costa Filipa¹

¹Department of Forensic and Neurodevelopmental Science, King's College London, London, United Kingdom, ²King's Centre for Military Health Research, King's College London, London, United Kingdom

This symposium fits under Risk Assessment and Management, but is relevant to multiple other conference themes including: Prevention of domestic abuse; Gender equality and domestic violence; Health systems and domestic abuse.

Background:

Intimate Partner Violence and Abuse (IPVA) is of growing concern in the UK military community driven by anecdotal evidence of increased relationship abuse and demand for support among both serving personnel and their partners. The concern is supported by two systematic reviews and meta-analyses of international research, which were published by our research team, showing high prevalence of both perpetration and victimisation among military personnel (Kwan et al, 2020; Sparrow et al, 2017). Yet there was no research into the prevalence of or risk factors for IPVA in the UK military and the limited research which was published on help-seeking and support focused on civilian partners of military personnel only (Gray et al, 2016). Our research, funded by the National Institute for Health Research and Forces in Mind Trust, aimed to utilise quantitative and qualitative methods to (i) establish the prevalence of and risk factors for IPVA perpetration and victimisation in UK military personnel compared to the general UK population; (ii) explore the influence of military life on experiences of IPVA (perpetration and victimisation) and barriers to help-seeking among military personnel and their civilian partners, and (iii) examine the experiences of health and welfare professionals in identifying and managing IPVA in the military community. We propose to present the findings from 4 studies which have been completed as part of this research project.

1: Prevalence of IPVA in UK Military compared to General Population and Military-specific Risk Factors

Findings will be presented from a cohort study into the health of UK military personnel (n>8,000, stratified random sample) in which we asked about perpetration and victimisation of IPVA in the past 12 months, as well as gathered other data including experiences in early life, military service and health and wellbeing measures. We utilised the Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey data, which asked the same questions about IPVA, for comparison with the UK general population. Key findings include: gender differences in type of IPVA among military personnel, higher prevalence of IPVA perpetration and victimisation among male and female military personnel compared to general population after adjustment for differences in socioeconomic factors and childhood adversity, and key military risk factors for IPVA including deployment-related trauma and mental health problems (e.g. PTSD, alcohol misuse).

2: Experiences of IPVA among Military Personnel, Influence of Military Life, and Experiences of Help-seeking.

Findings will be presented from a qualitative study which involved semi-structured interviews with 40 serving and ex-serving military personnel who had endorsed perpetration or victimisation or both in our cohort study (above). Data from the interviews, which explored their experiences of IPVA, the influence of military life and their experiences of help-seeking, were analysed using framework analysis. Major themes emerged including attitudes to gender, military hierarchy and hypermasculine culture, re-integrations into

family life (e.g. post-deployment), and mental health problems. Key barriers to help-seeking from health and welfare services were also identified.

3: Experiences of IPVA among Civilian Partners of Military Personnel, Influence of Military Life, and Experiences of Help-seeking.

Findings will be presented from qualitative semi-structured interviews with 25 civilian partners of military personnel who had reported being victim-survivors of IPVA by their military partners. Data from interviews, which explored their experiences of IPVA, the influence of military life, and experiences of help-seeking, were analysed using thematic analysis. The main themes to emerge mirrored those from study 2 and also included attitudes to gender, military hierarchy and hypermasculine culture, family re-integrations, and mental health problems. A theme of military-civilian divide also emerged, especially in the narratives of barriers to help-seeking from health, welfare and justice systems.

4: The Experience of Health and Welfare Professionals in Identifying and Responding to IPVA among Military Personnel.

Findings will be presented from qualitative semi-structured interviews with 25 health and welfare professionals working with military personnel. Data from the interviews, which explored experiences of identifying and managing IPVA among military personnel and their partners, were analysed using thematic analysis. Major themes emerged of lack of understanding of IPVA among some professionals and support services, lack of education and training, and variable provision of support services. Military specific factors such as the hypermasculine culture, stigma and the prioritisation of military personnel over civilian partners were also identified as key barriers to identification and management of IPVA.

Summing up: Implications for policy and practice:

A process of stakeholder and public involvement in our research has generated recommendations for policy and practice change, which are being utilised to inform the UK Ministry of Defence's review of their Domestic Abuse Strategy (2018). We will outline the outcomes from this process to date.

Domestic Abuse: Harnessing Learning Internationally under COVID-19 (DAHLIA-19)

Stanley Nicky¹, Barter Christine¹, McKibbin Gemma², Humphreys Cathy², Hegarty Kelsey², Robinson Michele³, Holt Stephanie⁴, Mwanda Nobs⁵, Christofides Nicola⁵, Meinck Franziska⁶, Houghton Claire⁶, Richardson Foster Helen¹, Shorrock Sarah¹, McCabe Leah⁶

¹University Of Central Lancashire, Preston, United Kingdom, ²University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia, ³Australian National Research Organisation for Women's Safety, Sydney, Australia, ⁴Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland, ⁵University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, ⁶University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

DAHLIA-19 Symposium Overview for ECDV IV:

Overview: Domestic Abuse: Harnessing Learning Internationally under COVID-19 (DAHLIA-19)

Nicky Stanley, **Christine Barter**

Globally, the risks of living with domestic abuse have increased consequent to Covid-19 restrictions. A range of responses at policy and practice levels have emerged. These differ across states and little is known about their take-up and impact. This study harnesses the global nature of policy and practice responses to domestic abuse under Covid-19 by examining policy and practice responses in the UK, Australia, Ireland and South Africa.

The Connect Centre for International Research on Interpersonal Violence and Harm at the University of Central Lancashire, UK, has collaborated with researchers at the University of Edinburgh, University of Melbourne, Trinity College Dublin and the University of the Witwatersrand to complete mapping and rapid review studies in all four countries. This research has captured promising policy and practice examples, examining both bottom-up and top-down initiatives. In-depth study of selected initiatives has also been included.

The research has focused on responses for all family members living with domestic abuse: victims, perpetrators and children and has examined the extent to which they have been co-ordinated. This symposium will include papers presenting research findings from all four countries with commonalities and divergences across different jurisdictions emphasized. Findings will inform: policy and practice as restrictions are eased; any future lockdowns and, in the longer term, recovery for victims and their families as well as future models of service delivery and policy.

Changes, opportunities and challenges in the response to domestic abuse during Covid-19 in Australia

Gemma McKibbin, Cathy Humphreys, Kelsey Hegarty, Michele Robinson

The restriction of movement and the lockdown which enforced physical disconnection beyond the immediate household had widespread adverse impacts on women and their children living with domestic abuse. Compensations and adjustments were required to provide access to the service and legal systems. The Australian arm of the DAHLIA project has undertaken a mapping of changes to policy, practice and service provision under Covid-19. In Australia, a wide range of different measures were introduced across housing, specialist service providers, helplines, health, the legal system and policing. This presentation will contribute an overview of innovations that services have sought to 'hold onto' even though face to face access is now more available. Lessons have emerged for the response to disaster, as well as the development of the service and legal systems more generally.

DAHLIA-19 – policy and practice approaches to Domestic Violence under COVID 19 in Ireland

Stephanie Holt

In March 2020 the Irish government introduced strict public health measures considered essential to suppressing the spread of Covid-19. Almost immediately, the evidence in Ireland and globally highlighted concerns for the unintended consequences of these protective measures for victims of DA. This study reports on the identification and assessment of policy and practice responses to the needs of all family members living with DV during lockdown in Ireland, against the backdrop of similar global developments. Key stakeholder engagement, identification of policy and practice initiatives and collection of qualitative data has highlighted interesting emerging findings. These include the opening up of a national conversation on DA, which an innovative national police response and awareness raising campaign was instrumental in instigating.

Responses to Domestic Abuse under COVID-19 lockdown in South Africa

Nobs Mwanda, Nicola Christofides

South Africa, like many countries globally, has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The government implemented a hard lockdown on 26 March 2020 which included curfews and curtailed movement outside of people's homes. The lockdown exacerbated domestic violence in homes, especially intimate partner violence perpetrated against women and violence against children. Government measures introduced included protected and temporary housing, feeding schemes, grant extensions. The statutory protection of children at risk for abuse and neglect continued through the prioritisation of legal cases involving children through the courts. Our study explores both the government response and that of non-governmental organisations. In-depth interviews and stakeholder meetings, combined with document reviews, are being conducted. Thematic content analysis will be carried out.

DAHLIA-19 – Policy and Practice approaches to Domestic Abuse under COVID-19 in the UK

Franziska Meinck, Claire Houghton, Helen Richardson Foster, Sarah Shorrocks

In the UK, the risks of living with domestic abuse increased under the first lockdown. This study aimed to map and assess policy and practice initiatives for all family members under Covid-19. Key stakeholders assisted in identifying policy and practice initiatives. A rapid review of data sources was conducted and informant interviews were carried out in each devolved nation to identify and assess policy and practice under Covid-19. We identified varying policies and practice initiatives across the four nations of the UK with differing implementation and utility. The focus of initiatives was predominantly on women survivors and ranged from public awareness campaigns to accommodation and online service delivery.

The roles of Media Representing Domestic Violence: A comparative Perspective

Ramon Shulamit¹, Marshall Victoria², Goddard Chris^{1,2}, Penhale Bridget³

¹University of Hertfordshire, Cambridge, United Kingdom, ²University of South Australia, Australia, ³University of East Anglia, Norwich, United Kingdom

Media representation of Domestic Violence is important because it reflects public opinion as well as attempting to shape it on an uncomfortable issue, associated with shame and guilt.

The more uncomfortable the issue, the more significant the role of the media in plugging the gaps in knowledge and views that people have on the specific issue.

The discomfort felt about domestic violence is not only due to the negative feelings concerning violence, but also to its intimate nature and ambiguity concerning both perpetrators and victims/survivors.

The symposium will look at three recent publications summarising media representation of DV in the fields of child domestic abuse, older people domestic abuse and women domestic abuse.

In parallel, the studies look at the types of media representation and their effectiveness in giving a voice to the individuals and groups involved, especially the victims, but also to other family members. Newspapers, television, and Ted Lectures are the key types of media representation looked at in these studies.

The studies cover different countries; Australian media in the case of child domestic abuse, UK in the case of older people domestic abuse, and the US in the case of the Ted Lectures.

The symposium will outline lessons concerning the actual role of the media in preventing domestic violence, lack of attention to prevention, glorification of domestic violence perpetrators vs. fostering the voice of the victims/survivors. The analysis will look in particular at the underlying factors that lead a specific media representation source to opt for all or any of these options.

Ted Lectures representations of DVA

Prof. Shula Ramon, University of Hertfordshire

Ted Lectures are a recent development of media representation, in which optimal coverage has to be provided within 18 minutes. Presenters need to have a good grasp of the necessary information, a charismatic presence, and must be able to use different types of media content and imagery effectively. They are designed to impact viewers intellectually and emotionally; effectiveness is measured by the number of viewers and the number of written comments.

This presentation focuses on three Ted Lectures on DVA of adult women in the US. The first is a survivor who analyses her own experience, the second presenter is a woman leader in the anti DVA movement in the 1970-1980 period concerning attitudinal and legislative changes towards DVA; while the third presenter is a man who worked on DVA issues in the American military and other settings, concentrating on the proposition that DVA is a men's Issue.

Australian media representation of children's experiences of DVA

Victoria Marshall (University of South Australia), Professor Chris Goddard (University of South Australia/University of Hertfordshire, UK)

DVA is a form of child abuse that denies children their right to safety at home and undermines children's relationships with non-offending caregivers who are targeted by abuse and violence.

DVA has historically been a problem hidden behind closed doors, and the media therefore has a powerful role to play in bringing information about DVA into the public sphere. How the experiences of children who have lived with DVA are represented in the media has implications for policy, practice and systemic responses to children, for the upholding of children's rights to safety and dignity, and for perpetrator and systemic accountability. Media representations of children's DVA experiences also have implications for individual and community perceptions of DVA as a social problem.

This paper will explore issues relating to Australian media representation of children's DVA experiences, consider the implications of these for children's rights and individual and community perceptions of children's DVA, and consider the role of the media in advocacy for systemic change and accountability.

Abuse of older people within family settings and Media representation w
Bridget Penhale, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK

Over the last fifteen years there has been increasing global recognition of abuse and neglect of older people who might be at risk of such forms of harm, as a social problem needing attention. Media representation of abuse against older people, particularly older women, in family settings, does not assist this situation, yet is important as it affects public opinion about the issues.

Around 500,000 older people are believed to be abused at any one time in the UK; most victims of elder abuse being older women with chronic illness or disability, according to statistics provided by the government information service. Most of the abuse recorded relates to domestic settings within communities. This presentation explores relevant issues, in particular the role of digital media and representations of elder abuse in familial settings and its impact on victims, potential victims, perpetrators, health and social care service providers, and the general public.

Discriminatory criminal justice response to the women who had to kill aggressors to survive in the post Soviet countries.

Akhilgova Janette¹, Smailova Dina³, Rashidova Shirin⁴, Frolova Valentina², Abduraupova Muhayo⁵

¹Equality Now, London, United Kingdom & Russian Federation, ²Consortium of Women's NGOs, Russian Federation,

³NeMolchi Fund, Kazakhstan, ⁴Center NIHOL, Uzbekistan, ⁵Positive Dialogue Kyrgyzstan

Throughout the post Soviet region justice systems fail to adequately respond to the crimes of women who chose to survive, they are discriminatory against women, prevent self-defence claims to women survivors of violence. The psychological impact, including in cases of battered woman syndrome, are not considered in sentencing.

Both the law itself and the way in which it is applied in most of the post Soviet countries create barriers to achieving a just outcome in criminal proceedings against women who have killed their abusers.

Women suffer from lack of protection from domestic abuse. Police response to domestic abuse is inconsistent and often fails to protect them - in Russia for, example, 80% of women convicted for murder were defending themselves. Lawyers' understanding of violence against women and girls is extremely low in the region and does not allow providing good legal representation and identifying the appropriate defense.

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Once women are convicted, there is almost no chance of a successful appeal.

Application of self-defence provisions should not be limited to situations with the traditional understanding of "imminent threat". Rather, the dynamics of domestic violence should be assessed in context. UNODC guidelines suggest that "in cases involving a long history of domestic violence, patterns of violence often emerge and victims become adept at identifying "red flags" that indicate imminent violence. Specifically, conduct that initially appears benign to prosecutors may, as a result of history and experience, signal imminent danger."

The panel will bring lawyers, activists and women's rights advocates and will provide an analysis of this problem, a study of practices and cases. We will bring the most important strategic litigation cases from Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, including the sisters Khachatryan case as the examples of litigation for changes in laws and practices.

Presentations:

1.Valentina Frolova and Janette Akhilgova Russia

Title: Lack of protection from domestic violence in Russia leading to murders and imprisonments of women.

The presentation will give an overview of the main failures of the criminal justice system in Russia which do not allow women find protection from domestic violence and will provide a case study of the investigation in the sisters Khachatryan case - Maria, Krestina and Angelina Khachaturian who were beaten, tortured, sexually abused and kept prisoner by their father over a number of years. According to jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, which Russia is a party to, States have an obligation to afford general protection to society and specifically to take account of the recurrence of successive episodes of violence within a family and effectively respond to protect women and children's rights within this context of domestic violence.

2. Shirin Rashidova Uzbekistan

Title: Transition period in Uzbekistan: Government willing to make changes but the conservative patriarchal cultures in the state institutions slower down the change.

The presentation is about the recent changes in Uzbekistan in the move to protect women from domestic violence and discrimination. However, the state institutions - police, judges, state officials, doctors have very low level of understanding of the nature and root causes of domestic violence. As a result, women, who kill in self defense are sentenced as if they committed premeditated murder. The

3. Dina Smailova Kazakhstan

Title: Sexual violence awareness raising as a mobilizing factor for advocacy in Kazakhstan.

The presentation will talk about the work of the activist group NeMolchi in Kazakhstan, which managed alone to have successful advocacy of the laws punishing for sexual violence and pushed further changing attitudes to women's self-defence. It will cover the cases of women killing defending themselves from violence and will give an overview of the criminal justice response to such cases, with the statistics.

4. Muhayo Abduraupova Kyrgyzstan

Title: What can be done to tackle discriminatory criminal justice response to the crimes committed by women in their self-defence in Kyrgyzstan

Women in Kyrgyzstan have almost no chance of being favoured by the investigation and the courts if they harm or kill their partner who attack them. The author will talk about what can be done in order to have a more comprehensive approach in the cases of women's defense from assault.

Preventing Intimate Partner Violence, from discursive approaches to Virtual Reality: the VR per GENERE project

Johnston Tania¹, Sanchez-Vives Mavi^{1,6}, Holma Juha⁴, Vall Berta², Päivinen Helena³, Barnes Nicolas^{1,5}, Seinfeld Sofia⁷

¹IDIBAPS, Barcelona, Spain, ²Blanquerna, Ramon Llull University, Barcelona, Spain, ³University of Tampere, Tampere, Finland, ⁴University of Jyväskylä, Jyväskylä, Finland, ⁵Department of justice of Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain, ⁶ICREA, Barcelona, Spain, ⁷Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain

Duration: 90min

Chairs: Mavi Sanchez-Vives and Sofia Seinfeld

SYMPOSIUM ABSTRACT

The general aim of VR Per GENERE (Virtual Reality Prevention of Gender-Violence in Europe based on Neuroscience of Embodiment, peRspective and Empathy) project is to reduce intimate partner violence (IPV) through the deployment of cost-effective prevention and rehabilitation tools.

In that context, we use Immersive Virtual Reality (IVR) - an efficient tool for fostering personal and social change (Slater & Sanchez-Vives, 2016)- to reduce IPV and we target three objectives:

- (1) To induce behavioural and attitudinal changes in the general public with respect to IPV
- (2) To promote healthy dating relationships
- (3) To reduce recidivism in IPV offenders.

In this symposium, we will present the prevention and rehabilitation strategies exploited in the project, ranging from non-technology mediated approaches, with the program for perpetrators in Jyväskylä (Finland), and psychotherapeutic strategies that combine discursive and dialogical approaches, to how we use IVR as a tool for rehabilitation in the Catalunya (Spain) justice system and as a tool for prevention with the general public, to modify attitudes of acceptability of violence and of victim blaming in youngsters and in adults.

TALKS ABSTRACTS

The programme for perpetrators in Jyväskylä

Juha Holma

The programme for perpetrators in Jyväskylä started in 1996 and is run jointly by the local Crisis Centre Mobile and Jyväskylä University Psychotherapy Training and Research Centre. The collaborative program is a part of multi-agency network of public social and health services as well as police. Interventions for perpetrators start with individual sessions at the crisis centre followed by a group program at the university. During the years 2001-2020, nearly 900 men had started individual sessions at the crisis centre. During the two decades the program has been in existence, the process and utility of group treatment been researched by applying discursive and narrative approaches. The data consists recorded group meetings as well as partner interviews. Research topics have ranged from justifications and explanations for violence to gender identity and discursive practices during treatment.

Combining discursive and dialogical approaches in treatment of intimate partner violence

Helena Päivinen & Berta Vall

The Jyväskylä model of working with IPV combines a feminist perspective and psychotherapeutic approaches to violence-specific interventions, such as safety planning. These aspects have also been the focus of research. Discursive and dialogical approaches have been applied in analyzing interaction at both the group and individual levels.

In the Jyväskylä model, studies that adapted a discursive approach have focused especially on gendered identity-work, and how identities supporting use of violence are de- and reconstructed in therapeutic conversations. Furthermore, analyses on the dialogical processes and strategies used by the therapist highlight aspects like dominance and quality of dialogue and their influence on violence and on the processes of change.

We will discuss the joint strengths and possibilities of these two approaches and draw connections to new, innovative perspectives, like embodiment, to build a more integrated approach in the field of violence research and interventions.

Virtual reality for the rehabilitation of IPV offenders: from probation to prisons.

Nicolas Barnes

IPV is a pervasive social problem that presents a series of challenges for its prevention and rehabilitation. In collaboration with the Department of Justice of Catalonia, we are using IVR as a rehabilitation tool with IPV offenders in probation and in prisons.

In past studies, we have demonstrated that immersing IPV perpetrators in the body, and perspective, of the victim of an abuse, allowed an improvement in emotion recognition skills, one of the building blocks of empathy. Current studies aim at exploring how IVR can be integrated into a classic rehabilitation programs, and the incremental effects it has on its psychological outcomes and on potential reduction of recidivism rates.

The Results of these different interventions will be presented and discussed.

Embodiment and immersion in virtual reality: new tools for the prevention of IPV in teens and the general public.

Tania Johnston

In the general public, attitudes such as tolerance and acceptance of IPV, and attitudes of victim blaming are an important target for prevention, as they determine victims', professionals', and the public's responses to IPV situations.

We will present results from two studies in which we used the potential of IVR for prevention of IPV: in study 1, we used embodiment as the victim of IPV to reduce attitudes of victim blaming in adults. In study 2, we immersed teenagers in 360°VR scenes of psychological dating violence in which the victim responded with different levels of assertiveness, to reduce their perceived acceptability of dating violence and to model teenagers' own response if they were confronted to the situation.

The implications of this approach and the next steps for the VR per GENERE project will be discussed.

Victim/survivor (dis) engagement with police in domestic abuse and rape cases

Bates Lis¹, Reed Dominic¹, Hopkins Anna¹, Bottomley Lucy¹

¹*The Open University, Milton Keynes, United Kingdom*

This symposium presents findings from a mixed methods study with police in England, Wales and Northern Ireland addressing victim/survivor (dis) engagement from police in cases of domestic abuse and rape. Despite frequent policy initiatives and developments, victim/survivor disengagement remains the most common reason for domestic abuse and rape cases to 'fall out' of the criminal justice system, and thus represents a real area of concern for policing. There remains a void in the understanding of different reasons for engagement and non-engagement in specific cases and about what different groups of victims/survivors want and need from the criminal justice system.

This study was set up following consultation with policing leads across forces in England, Wales and Northern Ireland about their gaps in knowledge around policing domestic abuse and rape. It aims to generate new understanding about how, when and why victims/survivors engage or disengage from police and the justice system and what victims/survivors want and need from police. By creating profiles of different 'engager types' the study aims to help police tailor responses to different victims/survivors and thereby put victims/survivors' needs and wishes at the core of the justice response.

On this panel, researchers from The Open University will present early project findings. The team will explore use of police records to create 'engager profiles', share what victims/survivors say about their experiences of the police and why they (dis) engaged, and reflect on doing research with police during a pandemic.

Paper 1: Using police records to profile patterns of victim/survivor (dis)engagement with the justice system

Dr Anna Hopkins and Dr Lis Bates

This paper presents findings from a quantitative and thematic analysis of police reports of domestic abuse and rape from eight forces in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Over 300,000 cases were quantitatively analysed to identify patterns of victim/survivor engagement and disengagement with police and identify the relative importance of different factors on engagement. An in-depth exploration of a sub-sample of several hundred police case files was conducted to explore in detail which factors influenced victims/survivors' decisions around (dis) engagement and to develop a set of 'engager profiles'.

Findings suggest that demographics, abuse history, police reporting history, relationship with the perpetrator and the nature of the evidence available in each case affect the ways and extent to which victims/survivors engage with police and the justice system. Conclusions are drawn for policy and practice.

Paper 2: What influences domestic abuse and rape survivors to engage or disengage from police?

Dr Anna Hopkins and Dr Dominic Reed

This paper presents results of interviews with victims/survivors of domestic abuse and rape. Victims/survivors were recruited via third sector gatekeepers and survivors' forums and semi-structured interviews were conducted virtually or by phone. The research team used profiles of victim/survivor engagement developed through analysis of the police data to develop vignettes of 'engager profiles'. These vignettes were used to guide interview discussions and to explore victim/survivor perspectives on patterns and reasons for (dis) engagement with police.

Interviews identified a host of motivations for victims/survivors to remain engaged or to disengage, including personal characteristics; history of abuse between abuser and victim/survivor; perceptions about the police response; and length of time between reporting and criminal justice system decisions. Interviews also explored the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on victim (dis) engagement. The paper makes recommendations to police about how they might better ask about and assess victim/survivor wishes, needs and expectations.

Paper 3: Conducting abuse research with police during a pandemic - reflections on challenges and successes

Dr Dominic Reed and Lucy Bottomley

This paper addresses barriers and implications of conducting abuse research with police during a global pandemic. Police faced a unique challenge during Covid-19 – they had to maintain a 'business as usual' frontline in-person response to crime and public safety, especially for domestic abuse and rape, whilst also being expected to 'police the pandemic' and cope with staff absences like other institutions.

These unique pressures on police posed challenges for conducting this research study. One challenge was building trust and engagement with key police informants where researchers had never physically met officers; another was how to use technology to create appropriate environments for officers of different seniorities to speak frankly to previously unknown researchers. With the research topic inherently sensitive, and the potential for concern about reputational risk to inhibit what police said, this project successfully encouraged difficult, honest and challenging discussions around the policing of abuse and interaction with victims/survivors.

Exploring LGB and/or T violence and abuse: the call for a cross-national network

Butterby Kate¹, Donovan Catherine¹, Ovesen Nicole³, Barnes Rebecca², Magić Jasna⁴, West Sarah⁴

¹Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom, ²University of Leicester, Leicester, United Kingdom, ³Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden, ⁴GALOP, London, United Kingdom

Throughout the UK, Europe and internationally, researchers, practitioners and policy makers work in the area of domestic violence (DV) (both intimate partner and family violence) in the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or trans+ (LGB and/or T+) people. Currently, work exists in country-specific geographical silos, with little collaboration cross-nationally. Additionally, within countries there remains the challenge of how accumulated knowledge and experience of the specialist LGB and/or T+ DV sector can be shared both cross-nationally and within the mainstream DV sector.

To respond to these concerns, this panel is being created as a call to develop a network for those working on DV in the lives of LGB and/or T+ people (both victim/survivors and perpetrators). The network's aims will be to raise the visibility and profile of work within this sector, which will subsequently highlight needs of LGB and/or T+ people who are experiencing DV. The network will bring together researchers, practitioners and policymakers to identify and respond to common themes and concerns internationally, related to the development of practice, policy and theory. The papers within this panel will consider domestic violence within LGB and/or T+ communities from research carried out within a UK and Scandinavian context and set the scene for the beginnings of a network.

'An eight day working week': the impact on practitioners of working within the financially fragile LGBT+ domestic abuse sector in England.

Dr Kate Butterby, Prof Catherine Donovan

Since 2008 in the UK, austerity has prominently impacted on the provision of third sector services, with LGBT+ services disproportionately affected (TUC, 2013). This presentation highlights findings from eleven interviews with practitioners from five domestic abuse organisations in England who provide specialist LGBT+ support. Commonalities emerged, such as practitioners regularly working over their contracted hours and completing tasks outwith their remit; underpinned by emotional impacts such as stress and exhaustion. At the core of experiences was the fragility of the LGBT+ sector due to precarious financial sustainability and being required to continuously (re)establish credibility of the sector. Assessing the landscape of the sector internationally would allow for a collaborative approach to raising the credibility of the vital work occurring within the LGBT+ sector.

Que(e)rying Mutual Abuse in the Abusive Relationships of LGB and/or T+ People

Prof Catherine Donovan, Dr Rebecca Barnes

This paper draws on empirical work to critically engage with debates about mutual abuse in the relationships of LGB and/or T+ people. We argue that the victim/perpetrator binary constructed in the public story of domestic violence and abuse (DVA) (Donovan and Hester 2014) reinforces incorrect assumptions about the victim as cis-heteronormatively feminised: weak and without agency. We illustrate how this dominant construction acts to isolate LGB and/or T+ survivors because they have stood up to their abusive partner. Their perception that authentic victims of DVA are weak/passive can result in their belief that they are equally 'to blame' and that their experience is 'mutual abuse'. We provide an amended COHSAR Power and Control Wheel that includes Spaces for Reaction as a guide for practitioners to better identify LGB and/or T+ victims.

Trouble in "Queertopia": challenging community support in cases of lesbian and queer IPV in Sweden

Nicole Ovesen

In Sweden, progressive family laws have meant that more LGBTQ families have gained legal recognition and reproductive rights. However, the normalization of the reproductive queer family also comes with a cost when it comes to community engagement. In this presentation, I draw on empirical work from my PhD project for which I interviewed 25 people who have experienced violence in intimate lesbian and/or queer relationships in Sweden. While most of the interviewees expressed a desire for more community support, many reported having limited access to LGBTQ communities. The concept of 'community' held very different meanings for the interviewees. In this presentation, I argue for the need to understand more about the specificities of the notion of 'communities' across Europe and the interaction between communities and IPV interventions.

'There is no support for someone like me': systemic change to improve provision of services to LGBT+ victim/survivors of domestic abuse

Sarah Webb, Prof Catherine Donovan, Dr Jasna Magić

This paper draws on mixed methods empirical research of LGBT+ family and intimate partner domestic abuse and help-seeking; and practitioner perspectives in the South East of England. Levels of domestic abuse are high; help-seeking involves predominantly informal (friends/family) or individual (counselling/therapy) sources; practitioners lack confidence that LGBT+ victim/survivors would receive an appropriate response. The low response rate of practitioners reinforce the general findings LGBT+ DA is not a priority in the local authority, that there is a lack of acceptance of LGBT+ lives and that the impacts for LGBT+ residents is significant. Recommendations focus on a systemic approach to improving things for LGBT+ residents both structurally and strategically within the Local Authority and more specifically within the domestic abuse sector.

Complex or Complicated: Evaluating complex and integrated domestic abuse (DA) prevention and intervention initiatives

Farrelly Nicola¹, Barter Christine¹, Richardson Foster Helen¹, Bracewell Kelly¹, Batool Farwa¹, Kurdi Zain³, Millar Annemarie², Shorrock Sarah¹, Hargreaves Paul¹, Stanley Nicky¹

¹Connect Centre, University Of Central Lancashire, Preston, United Kingdom, ²Queens University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, ³University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland

Complex interventions are generally described as containing several interacting components due to intersecting issues or complexity of need. They present various problems for implementation in addition to practical and methodological challenges. Complex DA interventions are increasing but are they complex or just complicated? Focusing on the experiences of primary school children, stalking victims, service users of a whole family DA intervention and findings from a systemic review of effective services for DA survivors with complex needs, the symposium will provide important messages for those developing and delivering complex interventions and for researchers. Nicola Farrelly's paper reports on an evaluation of a primary school programme which explored children's learning about DA in the context of a complex integrated programme. Key findings include the need for programme design and delivery to take account of the lower levels of awareness, barriers to implementing and sustaining learning. Helen Richardson-Foster reports on emergent findings from an ongoing systematic review on effective domestic abuse interventions for survivors with complex needs. Findings explore components of effective DA service response for women with complex needs and key messages for developing targeted services. Kelly Bracewell's paper draws on an evaluation of a national stalking helpline. The evaluation found that stalkers were frequently ex-partners, stalking had occurred over prolonged periods of time and highlights the challenges and complexities of the survivor journey to specialist support. Christine Barter reports on an evaluation of a complex DA intervention aiming to be responsive to the whole family's needs. The presentation will explore the importance of local context and the factors that enhance or impede change from the perspectives of service users.

Learning about Domestic Abuse for Primary School Children in the Context of an Integrated Programme
Nicola Farrelly, Farwa Batool, Annemarie Millar and Zain Kurdi

The NSPCC's Speak Out. Stay Safe programme for children under 11 in UK schools, aims to increase knowledge and help seeking skills for all types of abuse and harm. This paper explores children's learning about DA in the context of a complex integrated programme. The evaluation surveyed children in 36 schools at baseline and 6 months; children, school staff and programme facilitators completed interviews. Children's knowledge of DA was lower at baseline compared to other forms of harm. Schools were less confident in dealing with this topic. Programme design/delivery needs to take account of the lower levels of awareness and barriers to implementing and sustaining learning.

Working with domestic abuse survivors who have complex needs: what is the evidence base?

Helen Richardson Foster, Sarah Shorrock, Christine Barter and Nicky Stanley

This paper will present emerging findings from an ongoing systematic literature review of international research on effective interventions and responses for women who have experienced DA who have complex needs. This type of service response is increasing, however the evidence base is limited. The search was limited to international peer reviewed literature published in English from 2000-2020 and UK grey literature. The paper will consider a) what are the components of an effective service response for women who have experienced DA and have complex needs? b) What programmes are effective for women with complex needs who have experienced DA?

‘Nobody could help me’: The journey to accessing stalking support

Kelly Bracewell, Paul Hargreaves and Christine Barter

This presentation reports on an evaluation of a national service in England and Wales for victims of stalking which provides trauma-informed support, advice and advocacy. Methods included analysis of service user outcome data, feedback forms and interviews with service users and staff. Stalkers were commonly ex-partners. Specialist support was key to both emotional wellbeing and physical safety, but for many victims the path to support was difficult and isolating. Service users described high levels of fear, emotional turmoil, and a lack of understanding from others. Support predominantly entailed safety planning and evidence gathering to ensure an improved response. This presentation highlights the dangerous and inappropriate circumstances many victims faced before accessing support and the inability of existing provision to meet the complexities of survivor experience.

Evaluation of an integrated whole family approach to domestic abuse

Christine Barter, Helen Richardson Foster and Nicky Stanley

There is considerable concern in England and Wales that current provision of DA services is inadequate to meet need and in particular is failing those with complex needs. The SafeLives ‘whole picture approach’ comprised an integrated DA programme of multiple interventions targeted at the whole family. Delivered in two sites, interventions were tailored to meet the needs of all family members, including those with complex needs, enabling the family to access different interventions within the same organisation, moving between them on their journey to recovery. The presentation will report on the mixed-method evaluation of the programme, including findings on implementation, delivery, survivor outcome measures and the factors that enhance or impede change from the perspectives of service users.

Adaptation, Implementation and Evaluation of Intimate Partner Violence Innovations for Home Visiting Programs in Europe

Jack Susan¹, Rowe Ann², Gammelgaard Aaserud Tine³, Larkin Emma⁴, Conway Shauna⁴, Webb Deirdre⁴, Tyndall Sarah⁵

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Considerable resources are invested in the development and evaluation of new practice innovations to support nurses and midwives identify and respond to intimate partner violence (IPV). In the United States, resources were invested to develop, pilot, evaluate and scale an IPV innovation for the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) home visitation program. Internationally, six NFP programs (Australia, Canada, England, Northern Ireland, Norway and Scotland) subsequently adopted, adapted and piloted the NFP IPV innovation.

The objective of this symposium is to discuss critical lessons learned about adapting, implementing and evaluating existing IPV innovations into European contexts. The adoption of the NFP IPV intervention will be used as a case example. International leads from four countries will describe their local initiatives and then provide practical recommendations for researchers and decision-makers committed to adapting, introducing and evaluating IPV innovations.

Overview of the Nurse-Family Partnership Intimate Partner Violence Intervention

Susan Jack RN PhD, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

An overview will be provided of the NFP intimate partner violence innovation, including practice tools and resources, a curriculum for nurse supervisor education, implementation supports for organizations and guidance for reflective supervision.

Leveraging the Power of Collaboration and Committed Partnerships

Ann Rowe RN MSc, Consultant Nurse-Family Partnership International Program

The benefits and challenges of multiple countries working simultaneously to adapt the same innovation yet tailor it to different European contexts will be identified and discussed. The importance of central coordination, collaboration and identification of similarities and differences in contexts will be considered. At the country level, changes to existing clinical practices require a committed local champion, leadership, support and facilitated guidance

Adapting existing interventions to reflect local needs and contexts

Tine Gammelgaard Aaserud RN RM MSc, Nurse Family Partnership, Regional Centre for Child and Adolescent Mental Health, Eastern and Southern Norway

The process of adaptation for a new context (Norway) will be explored, including identification of types of individual, team, organizational, community and cultural adaptations required. Issues of language and translation, 'fit' with local policy and service configurations as well as the balance between innovation and building on good nursing practice will be discussed.

Practice-based evaluation of adapted IPV interventions

Emma Larkin PhD, Shauna Conway MSc, Deirdre Webb RN MSc, Public Health Agency, Northern Ireland

It is good practice to evaluate adapted program innovations for local acceptability and feasibility within a new context. Findings of the Northern Ireland IPV innovation mixed methods service evaluation will be shared, including the degree to which the adapted innovation was implemented with fidelity. Reflections on the integration of the IPV innovation into a context of integrated health and social care services and the Northern Ireland policy context in relation to safeguarding and domestic violence risk assessment will be discussed. Considerations for existing nurse-client relationships will also be addressed.

How research methodology can support implementation of novel IPV innovations to support young women and their families

Sarah Tyndall RGN MA, Nurse Consultant, Family Nurse Partnership National Unit
Nursing, Maternity and Early Years Directorate- Public Health England

A description of rapid cycle testing methodology and how this was used to support implementation of the innovation in England will be provided. Reflections on the benefits and drawbacks of short testing cycles and how these were used to combine quantitative data feedback with practitioner consultation will be discussed. These frequent conversations with teams around practice experiences and reflection on practitioner generated quantitative data created a dynamic which supported timely responses to challenges in the nurse experience of delivering the innovation and enabled rich learning to inform ongoing adaptation of this innovation into a new context.

Identifying and responding to domestic and sexual violence in healthcare and community settings.

Peeren Siofra¹, Oram Sian¹, Montgomery Elsa¹, **Hildersley Rosanna**¹, Easter Abigail¹, Carson Lauren, Bakolis Ioannis¹, Khalifeh Hind¹, Howard Louise¹, **Paphitis Sharli**¹, **Bentley Abigail**², Asher Laura³, Osrin David⁴, **Domoney Jill**¹, Trevillion Kylee¹

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Symposium Abstract:

This symposium brings together research from the Section of Women's Mental Health at King's College London and includes four papers on identification and intervention of domestic and sexual violence across different settings. The papers included in this submission reflect the complexity of domestic and sexual violence by including research both within and outside of health care contexts and from multiple perspectives. First, we will examine identification and intervention in health care settings, starting with the findings of a qualitative systematic review examining the pre- and post- disclosure experiences and expectations of health care for survivors of sexual violence and/or abuse in adulthood. This is followed by research on how the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted identification of domestic violence in pregnant women in health care settings. Next, we present a realist review examining mechanisms of change by which psychosocial interventions across all settings improve mental health among survivors of intimate partner violence. We finish by exploring men's descriptions of mechanisms of change in a whole family intervention called 'For Baby's Sake'.

Experiences and expectations of health care for survivors of sexual violence in adulthood.

Siofra Peeren, Sian Oram, Elsa Montgomery.

Many survivors have additional health needs, yet research indicates that aspects of health care can re-create the dynamics of abuse. One in five women in the UK has experienced sexual violence in adulthood, with intimate partner sexual violence is the most common form, and health care providers are therefore likely encountering survivors every day. This systematic review and meta-synthesis of 39 qualitative studies examines health care experiences and expectations of female survivors of adulthood sexual violence and/or abuse. Key themes and implications for practice include: experiences of health as both re-traumatising and healing; the clinical setting and women's identities mediated needs and expectations. Women wanted choice and control within healthcare encounters and needed time and space to trust themselves, trust healthcare providers, and to feel that they are trusted in return.

The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on identification of domestic violence in pregnant women in healthcare settings

Rosanna Hildersley, Abigail Easter, Lauren Carson, Ioannis Bakolis, Hind Khalifeh, Louise Howard
Social restrictions implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic have led to increased Domestic Abuse and Violence (DVA) incidents. Concern is growing about associated maternal deaths. However, changes to healthcare provision may have reduced opportunities for disclosure.

Data from the eLIXIR Programme (n=26,896) will be used to investigate the rate of disclosure of antenatal DVA in maternity and mental health services. Rates of recorded disclosure of DVA before (01/10/2018-29/02/2020) and during (01/03/2020-30/08/2020) COVID-19 will be compared using interrupted time-series analyses.

The data analysis for this project is ongoing (estimated completion April 2021), and preliminary statistics suggest a decrease in identification of DVA by healthcare professionals during COVID-19. Findings will be discussed with reference to maternal mental health and implications for policy and practice.

Improving the mental health of female IPV survivors: A realist review

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Mechanisms of action leading to efficacious outcomes in the broad range of psychosocial interventions to support the recovery of female survivors of IPV are still unclear, particularly for complex interventions across different settings. Drawing on evidence from 60 reviews, context-mechanism-output (CMO) statements were constructed. We discuss mechanisms of action leading to improved psychological outcomes for survivors associated with intervention design and delivery, as well as specific intervention components (viz. access to resources and services; safety, control and support; increased knowledge; alterations to affective states and cognitions; improved self-management; and, improved social relations). High impact psychosocial interventions take a holistic view of the problem and provide support for survivors in individualised and trauma-informed ways.

Mechanisms of change for male perpetrators in a perinatal programme to reduce domestic violence.

Jill Domoney & Kylee Trevillion

'For Baby's Sake' is a whole family intervention that works with both parents from pregnancy to two years postpartum to break cycles of domestic violence and improve outcomes for children. King's College London evaluated the two prototype sites of For Baby's Sake, including collecting qualitative data on fathers' experience of engagement and making changes. The aim of this presentation is to explore men's descriptions of mechanisms of change.

Men (n=13) were interviewed at three time points and asked about changes they had noticed and what they believed had led to these changes. Interviews were audio recorded, transcribed verbatim, and analysed using thematic analysis.

Themes included relationship with the practitioner, understanding abuse, and baby as motivator. This data can support refinements of the intervention and facilitate men's engagement in such programmes.

Multiple Pathways to Harm: Assessing the impact on children and family functioning should be our first step

Mitchell Anna¹

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The most difficult aspect of holding perpetrators accountable for their behaviour is that it would appear to most on the outside that their behaviour includes isolated incidents and may not directly harm the children. Therefore, the system does not know how to address the perpetrator or, even worse, recognise that the children are being impacted. This workshop will provide an introduction to the Safe & Together Model's 'Multiple Pathways to Harm' assessment and critical thinking framework and provide tools to apply a comprehensive assessment lens to the impact of domestic violence perpetrator behaviours on child and family functioning. This approach sets high standards for men as parents, engagement standards for men of diverse backgrounds and teaches how to partner with adult survivors. The session will utilise lecture, power point, group discussion and small group practice. Participants will have the opportunity to use the Multiple Pathways to Harm practice tool in this session.

The Multiple Pathways to Harm tool supports accurate and comprehensive assessments by:

- Examining more domains of the perpetrator's adult and parental functioning
- Examining more domains of family functioning
- Tying together the domestic abuse perpetrator behaviour with other issues such as housing instability and adult survivor parental functioning
- Providing assistance in connecting the dots between the perpetrator's pattern of behaviour and child behavioural, emotional, physical health and development

Participants will have an opportunity to learn through practicing using the Multiple Pathways to Harm Tool in small groups on cases involving domestic violence. They will gain an understanding of how a perpetrator pattern-based approach can help improve assessment in domestic violence cases and will increase their knowledge and confidence in using the tool in case work.

Preventing Domestic Violence and Related Problems: Creating Strengths-Based Approaches

Banyard Victoria¹, Hamby Sherry²

¹Rutgers The State University Of NJ School of Social Work, New Brunswick, United States, ²Life Paths Research Center and University of the South, Sewanee, United States

Prevention promises to alleviate the societal burden of domestic violence and other related forms of interpersonal aggression more than intervention alone ever can, by stopping adversities and suffering from happening in the first place. Most people are exposed to prevention messages. In one of the few national studies of prevention exposure, Finkelhor and colleagues (2014) found that 65% of a national sample of children ages 7-17 reported exposure to some kind of anti-violence or anti-bullying prevention program. Yet interpersonal violence (especially forms like domestic violence) and their links to many other public health problems persist. Clearly lack of exposure to prevention is not the problem. The issue is the effectiveness and utility of what participants get – does it actually make any difference in their lives? In this interactive workshop we introduce a new model, the prevention portfolio model. The prevention portfolio model incorporates strategies from across many disciplines including behavioral economics and public health to create an environmental “architecture” that promotes positive outcomes and reduces violence. This will be a highly interactive workshop for researchers, practitioners, and educators. The presenters will draw upon their extensive expertise conducting applied, community engaged and practice relevant prevention research and their decades of experience creating active learning experiences in educational and technical assistance settings (including in virtual meetings) to help workshop participants re-imagine violence prevention across the lifespan in a way that centers strengths and that connects evidence based domestic violence prevention specific tools with broader strategies to increase motivation for change among prevention participants. Using a combination of narrative exercises and discussion, participants will examine how they might specifically apply aspects of the Prevention Portfolio Model in their own work. Presenters will highlight both specific research and practice implications from the model across a range of prevention contexts where domestic violence prevention is important (educational settings, community organizations, and for policymakers).

Finkelhor, D., Vanderminden, J., Turner, H., Shattuck, A., & Hamby, S. (2014). Youth exposure to violence prevention programs in a national sample. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 38(4), 677-686.

This is Exactly What Domestic Violence Sounds Like: Abuser Coercive Control and Professional Toolboxes to Build Victims' Trust, Skills and Confidence

Bonomi Amy¹, Martin David¹

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Background:

Witness tampering and coercive control are significant problems in domestic violence cases, with abusers pressuring their victim to recant to lessen criminal charges (Davis v. Washington, 126 S.Ct. 2266, 165 L.Ed.2d 224, 2006). Through abusers' coercive control, more than 80 percent of domestic violence victims recant (Meier, 2006), and recantation is thus a natural part of domestic violence. Moreover, when victims do not have access to professionals who believe their experiences, victims immediately sense this, retract and are at risk of further coercive control by their abuser.

Objectives:

This interactive workshop engages participants in their reflections and dissections of: 1) subtle unconscious biases that professionals tend to carry about victims who recant; 2) how coercive control plays out in real-time using audio-recorded jail calls and cell phone extractions; and 3) how to move from bias to effective professional toolboxes to bolster victims' trust, skills and competence, and confidence in working with professionals.

Pedagogical Approach:

As social justice practitioners, we will bring workshop participants together in supportive community to reflect upon and dissect three critical areas. Participants will be directly and extensively involved through interactive questions and dialogue to explore:

- 1) Subtle unconscious biases that professionals tend to carry about victims who recant (20 minutes). We will guide participants in reflecting upon and identifying underlying biases and opportunities for growth.
- 2) How coercive control plays out in real-time by exploring audio-recorded jail calls and cell phone extractions (30 minutes). There is no substitute for the power of using actual audio and visual recordings to explore the subtleties and complexities of coercive control and witness tampering.
- 3) How to move from the subtle biases we carry to refine effective professional toolboxes to bolster victims' trust, skills and competence, and confidence in working with professionals (30 minutes).

Because explorations and interventions to reduce domestic violence are informed by what is happening in our larger contextual environment, the workshop will situate our discussions within our current social context—COVID-19, racial unrest.

Anticipated Learning:

We will facilitate deeper understandings of coercive control and witness tampering, by engaging participants in examining abuse dynamics as they unfold in real-time using audio- and visual- recordings. We will also engage the workshop community in exploring how to move from the subtle biases we carry to refine effective professional toolboxes to bolster victims' trust, skills and competence, and confidence in working with professionals.

Experience Based Co-Design: Creating 'Trigger Films' with Survivors of Domestic Violence & Bereaved Family Members due to Domestic Homicide in Research.

Craig Elaine¹, Duxbury Joy, Haines Alina, Heyes Kim, Chantler Khatidjah, Bracewell Kelly

¹*Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, United Kingdom*

Learn to create engaging lived experience 'Trigger Films' in research. Trigger films amplify poignant moments in survivors and family members journeys and use their voices and experiences to drive an agenda for change. In this interactive workshop researchers Prof Joy Duxbury OBE, Dr Alina Haines-Delmont, Dr Kim Heyes and filmmaker Elaine Craig will lead you in the art of creating trigger films. By the end of the session, you will learn how sensitively use film as a data collection medium and how to combine narrative and visuals to tell an engaging story.

In our ESRC funded project, 'Learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews Using Experience Based Co-Design (EBCD),' we created a trigger film based on twenty narrative interviews with survivors of domestic violence and family members bereaved due to domestic homicide. In addition to other data collected in the project, this film will be shown to service providers and key stakeholders in order to co-create and implement mutually agreed service improvements that prevent future homicides.

EBCD is an eight-stage method using storytelling to focus on experiences and emotions rather than attitudes or opinions. It improves the experiences for survivors, family members and staff by all parties working together as equal partners to prioritise, co-design and implement solutions. This workshop focuses on stage three, the trigger film, which allows staff to see services through their service users' eyes. This provides a platform for direct, honest conversation between the staff and service users to raise areas both of concern and celebrate and replicate areas of success.

In this workshop, we will first take part in a group discussion about the ethical challenges and considerations when using film methods with vulnerable groups. Secondly, we will split into breakout rooms to contrast and compare interviewing adaptations for filming off and online. Finally, in our breakout rooms we will watch a short film and identify possible 'trigger' points in the interviews before joining the bigger group to discuss possible ways to cluster trigger points together in order to tell an engaging story.

Dignity for Dead Women: Examining the reporting of fatal domestic abuse

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Following the publication of 'Dignity for Dead Women: Media guidelines for reporting domestic violence deaths' in 2018 and more recently in 2020 'Dignity for Dead Women: How families bereaved by fatal domestic abuse have experienced the press', this workshop aims to facilitate a discussion of media reporting of fatal domestic abuse and to challenge media narratives.

Presenters will highlight key findings from both reports and present examples of media narratives from around the world alongside testimony from families and journalists.

Participants will be invited to:

1. Discuss the findings from both reports and consider how they compare to their own experiences of media reporting.
2. Examine the the impact of media reporting on the public's understanding and perception of domestic abuse.
3. Consider strategies to improve media reporting of fatal domestic abuse.

This workshop will be facilitated through small group and wider group discussion and opportunities for questions and challenge. We would invite participants to bring along some examples of media reporting to share with the group.

We will offer participants an opportunity for open and honest discussion into some of the issues surrounding media reporting of domestic abuse and fatal domestic abuse.

Pathways to Resilience in a Brave New World: Responding to Violence Against Women and Children through an Intersectional Lens

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This 90 minute workshop will use interactive conversations to stimulate reflective processes of practices through dialogue in action. Resilience and pathways to resilience will be explored in work with domestic abuse survivors and abused children for organizations providing services to violence survivors. Our framework is based on person-in-environment, eco-systemic thinking emphasizing that individual resilience depends on creating resilient environments.

“Radical resilience” as defined by Ramona Alaggia, social work professor and gender based violence researcher at the University of Toronto, is what is required to create those conditions. Cath Kane, resilience coach and leadership and culture change specialist, promotes the idea that cultivating resilience establishes a foundation on which we can anchor ourselves through change and strengthen our resolve amidst uncertainty. Together we highlight that building resilience is not just in families/survivors but in ourselves as practitioners and our organizations. This is key to moving forward in cultivating leadership at all levels and within our professional communities. Reflective practice, self-awareness and self-compassion, are key to moving through uncertainty and adversity in a ‘new’ way.

An intersectional lens informs our guiding principles for a resilience building movement. We define intersectionality as recognizing the intersecting barriers within communities based on ethno-racial, gender and sexual identities, ability, and class. We will be especially reflecting on the past year and a half of COVID-19 impacts on children, families and services focusing on identifying resilient responses, and ways to promote these over the long-term. These include innovations and building intersectional policies into organizational structure to reduce barriers and inequities.

The workshop will begin with a reflective dialogue between Cath and Ramona, candidly sharing their VAW work in Canada, the UK and the US over the past two decades. They will focus on how their experiences have come together in responding to the current pandemic - a crisis that has resulted in collective trauma. Interactive conversations between participants for brainstorming and sharing will follow in “virtual world cafes”. Focusing questions will be provided for kindling conversations. De-briefing and sharing innovations that have grown out of the current pandemic and ways to address the differential impacts on marginalized groups living with gender based violence will occur.

The objectives of this workshop:

1. Learning about radical resilience
2. Understanding intersectionality in violence work and its application in practice
3. Sharing and brainstorming new innovations
4. Self-care through sharing and processing the events of the last year and a half

How to reach Sami families, and make therapy for families affected by domestic violence, feel equal and relevant to the Sami population.

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The Sami people in Norway is part of an indigenous people, living in great parts of the European Arctic. Structural violence is a part of the Sami people's history, like it is for most indigenous people around the world. The structural violence against the Sami affects the way people with a Sami background perceives the government and public health services. In general, they have less trust in public health services and so make less use of them. Alternative to Violence (ATV) is a non-profit non-governmental organization that provides treatment and professional expertise on violence with particular focus on domestic violence. ATV's threefold mandate is to provide psychological treatment, develop professional knowledge and disseminate knowledge on domestic violence. In 2020 ATV started «The Indigenous people Project». Its goal is to reach more Sami families, and make the therapy culturally sensitive, so that it is perceived as respectful and relevant to the Sami population. The Lecture holders are part of the project group leading the project and holds specific competence on the indigenous people of Norway and Greenland. The project has developed an interactive way of building knowledge and sharing experiences connected to working with Sami clients, between the project group and the rest of the organization. Bulletins are distributed to the 15 different offices monthly, that contain an article/film to increase knowledge about the Sami people, their history and culture, and a clinical case, or reflective questions to make each therapist contemplate on how they perceive the Sami people and how this affects their work as therapists. They then report back to the project group, who attains new knowledge. The Sami population is heterogenous, and each client will need their treatment to be tailored. After living with structural violence for over a hundred years, some clients with a Sami background are proud of their roots and cherish them. Others do not want to acknowledge their Sami heritage, but it is still an important part of their family history. The history of structural violence towards the Sami people also affects the therapists, in that they either come from families who has been the benefactors of structural violence towards the Sami, on the receiving end of it, or even a mix. Therefore, at the heart of the project is an invitation to each therapist to examine his or her own prejudices.

Approaching intersectionality in research on violence

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Intersectionality is trending in many research areas. However, translating the complex and dynamic nature of intersectionality into research projects can be challenging. Intersectionality is understood as intersecting and interwoven diverse sets of social relations (also referred to as for example characteristics, identities, or categories) relating to social inequality, oppression or discrimination. The benefits of intersectionality are manifold. Intersectionality may uncover power structures, social inequality or discrimination, facilitates the discussion of intersections of diverse characteristics or categories or may lead to additional research questions. This workshop approaches intersectionality from a research perspective and focuses on the understanding of intersectionality and the value of intersectionality in (qualitative) research on violence. Workshop participants discuss and test ways to incorporate intersectionality in studies on (domestic) violence.

This workshop has three parts in which interactive aspects alternate with presentation about intersectionality and intersectional aspects in research studies. The first part focuses on a theoretical understanding of intersectionality. After an introduction to intersectionality and interconnected concepts (e.g., privilege, identities, social inequality and disadvantage), participants are encouraged to share their ideas and understanding of intersectionality. The first part serves to gain a collective understanding of the concept of intersectionality.

The second part includes designing qualitative research projects with an intersectional framework or intersectional aspects in the context of (domestic) violence. Concrete examples of fails, benefits and challenges in incorporating intersectionality in violence research are presented and will inspire group work and discussion of intersectionality when designing research on (domestic) violence. The group activity encourages participants to reflect on previous research projects, potential ways to incorporate intersectionality, and to share best practices when including intersectionality in research.

The third part connects the first and second part of the workshop. Participants will have exchanged ideas about intersectionality and benefits and pitfalls when researching violence with an intersectional lens. The discussions of the group activities are presented and combined into take-away messages.

Domestic violence against members of the LGBTIQ+ community

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Most LGBTIQ+ focused research shows that persons from LGBTIQ+ communities are victims of domestic violence at high rates than heterosexual cisgender persons. Discrimination they experience in public because of their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression can translate to an even more vulnerable position within family settings. Domestic violence experienced by LGBTIQ+ people is often related to a rejection of their SOGIGE that are at odds with the hetero- and cisnormative expectations of their parents or other family members. It turns out that this violence has much more severe consequences for them than the violence or discrimination they experience in the public sphere, that they often find themselves without any support or social network and have to rebuild their lives from scratch. For this reason, LGBTIQ+ individuals may experience unique forms of domestic violence and face distinct barriers to seeking help due to fear of discrimination or bias. All of this may make LGBTIQ+ victims of domestic violence less likely to seek help.

The aim of this roundtable is to shed light on the dimensions and complexities of the problem of domestic violence against members of the LGBTIQ+ community. We aim to open up questions about the differences and consequences of such violence and ways of dealing with it. Above all, we want to draw attention to the importance of systematically including such content in the context of domestic violence research and movements.

Linn Julian Koletnik, MA in Gender Studies (Central European University), will present the findings of the research *Everyday life of trans persons in Slovenia (2019)* which speak about experiences of domestic violence among the Slovene trans population. After presenting a brief overview of the social positions of trans persons in Slovenia, they will depict the main forms of domestic violence trans persons in Slovenia are exposed to, some of which are verbal abuse, financial violence and risks of homelessness. Aside from drawing data from the priorly mentioned research, their input will also be based on years of working as a counsellor of LGBTIQ+ persons in Slovenia. In conclusion they will also present the failings of structural social protection and welfare programs in regards to offering systemic support to trans persons who experience domestic violence and related forms of abuse and exclusion.

Rok Smrdelj, junior researcher and PhD candidate, and Jasna Podreka, PhD, teacher assistant and researcher will represent the results of the international project »Call It Hate«. First, they reflect the main findings of the public opinion poll in Slovenia which showed that transgender people scored lower levels of support, empathy and understanding in the selected hypothetical situation compared to other groups within the LGBTIQ+ community. In the second part, they present the results of the focus group survey among LGBTIQ+ people. Respondents indicate that domestic violence they have experienced is often related to non-acceptance in their family of origin and affects them more than violence outside the home. Due to prejudice against LGBTIQ+ people in the public sphere, it is more difficult for them to seek help as they have low confidence in law enforcement. Consequently, they rarely report the violence they have experienced.

Nina Perger, PhD, will present the results of the qualitative research, focusing on everyday life of gender and sexual non-binary individuals (23), conducted in 2015–2019, including their experiences with violence within intimate relationships. The participants' everyday life is significantly shaped by the anticipation of violence or otherwise negative reactions – from significant others, for example, when disclosing their non-normative identities, or from people in general. These anticipations are shaped at the intersection of the past (past experiences of violence, either by themselves or by LGBTIQ+ community as such) and present, shaped by general negative attitudes towards LGBTIQ+ community and, specifically, towards non-binary people, and are projected into and anticipated in the future. As such, they significantly shape their everyday life practices, including self-disciplining and self-censoring practices that are being implemented in order to avoid potential experiences with violence.

Mateja Vilfan, will present main experiences of the last six years while working on the field of mental health in the LGBTIQ+ community, highlighting the topic of domestic violence among counselees included in the individual counseling at Legebitra. She will be talking about main observations connected to the most common forms of domestic violence counselees were exposed to, such as different forms of psychological violence, financial violence and how they are connected to mental health problems of LGBTIQ+ persons. She will also present the main obstacles in the process of help and protection of victims and systemic deficiencies they are noticing and experiencing in the social – welfare system, mostly connected to available resources in our country and the lack of knowledge and sensibility among different professions for recognizing different forms of domestic violence LGBTIQ+ persons may experience at home.

Offender Behaviour and Intimate Partner Femicide

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Intimate partner femicide (IPF) is the homicide of a female within the context of a current or former intimate relationship (Bugeja, Dawson, McIntyre, & Walsh, 2015). It can be a lethal consequence of domestic violence (DV) or intimate partner violence (IPV) but can also occur without any violence preceding it (Johnson, 2019). While IPF can occur in all types of relationships, it is overwhelmingly perpetrated by men (Stark, 2018). IPF is a rare event when compared to DV and IPV in Australia and globally, however it is considered preventable and a large amount of research has been dedicated to highlighting risk factors that may help in reducing IPF deaths (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2018; Cullen et al., 2019; Cunha & Goncalves, 2016). Widely accepted risk factors of IPF include previous violence, an offender's criminal history, excessive use of alcohol or other drugs, separation, coercive and controlling behaviours, and non-fatal strangulation (Dobash & Dobash, 2015; Messing & Thaller, 2013; Spencer & Stith, 2018). More recently, research conducted by Monckton-Smith examines offender behaviour prior to the IPF and the timeline they often follow (Monckton-Smith, 2019). This presentation will discuss a research project conducted as part of a PhD which aims to examine these risk factors and offender behaviours and how they are associated with IPF, using a feminist lens (see Johnson, 2008; Stark, 2007). This project collected risk factors and analysed offender behaviour from Australian cases of male perpetrated IPF within 15 years. Using quantitative and qualitative analysis it was found that offender behaviour such as planning was significantly linked with IPF, particularly when combined with separation and mental illness. These findings confirm recent research that seeks to highlight patterns in offender behaviour prior to IPF and adds to the knowledge of understanding male IPF offenders and how to prevent future deaths.

Femicides committed by police officers in the last decade in Republic of Serbia

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Acts of domestic violence and femicide by a police officers are estimated to be at least as common as acts committed by the general population. Still, this is an under-researched problem with few studies or proposed solutions. The purpose of this study was to analyze this problem so as to understand its prevalence and characteristics, and develop guidelines on responding to such cases.

Analysis draws together existing data on the femicide committed by police officers (N= 9, at least) from AWC's decade evidence (2010-2020) on femicide in Serbia, collected on the basis of content analysis reviewed media reports (N = 152). The analysis included basic quantitative and qualitative processing. The findings show a lack of specific information in the media reports; therefore, it is not possible to determine with precision whether the frequency of femicide by police officers is higher or lower than in the general population. In 2/3 of the considered cases, the perpetrators were retired or out of service at the time when they committed femicide, while others were employed. In all cases in which police officers were engaged, they used official (state-owned) weapon. In at least 1/3 of the considered cases, there were earlier reports of violence to the relevant institutions, which implies omissions in victim protection.

Results indicate that a specific set of measures needs to be adopted in order to respond and investigate complaints of domestic violence committed by police officers: change of internal processing procedures; identifying omissions by overview of internal documents on previous reports of violence in femicide cases, preventing the misuse of official weapons, and effective monitoring of the implementation and evaluation of the adopted measures. This might be an effective means to prevent and reduce domestic violence and femicide by police officers.

Keywords: Femicide, Officer-Involved Domestic Violence, Police, Control measures, Prevention.

Measuring femicide

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Femicide is the extreme end of a continuum of gender-based violence, defined broadly as “the killing of a woman or girl because of her gender” . To help combat femicide, the European Institute of Gender Equality (EIGE) collects administrative data on intimate partner (IP) femicide across all EU Member States (27 plus 3 UK jurisdictions), which constitutes the most common form of femicide. Administrative data is important to inform policy-makers and to support evidence-based policymaking. EIGE’s data collection includes desk research of national statistics on female homicides and direct engagement with national stakeholders to obtain information such as sex/age of the victim/perpetrator, victim-perpetrator relationship and type of offence. This data is used to populate EIGE’s indicator measuring the number of women victims of IP femicide.

The main findings from the latest research shows that:

- None of the Member States explicitly define femicide in their criminal law;
- Only Spain and Italy have operationalised specific definitions for statistical purposes;
- 47% (n=14) of Member States have comparable data on IP femicide overall;
- 80% (n=24) of Member States have data available, including 70% with data on the sex of the victim;
- In 2018, Germany (n=122) had the highest total number of victims whilst Malta (rate=1.0), followed by Latvia (rate=0.9), accounts for the highest rate of IPfemicide per 100,000 women.

Based on the findings, EIGE recommends Member States to improve and harmonise their data collections based on a systematic and standardised approach, and to develop and adopt an EU definition of femicide. EIGE is further supporting Member States to measure femicide through the development of a classification system, including proposed variables, typologies and indicators. In a separate study for 2021, EIGE is researching investigation, prosecution and reparation in femicide cases.

Legal responses to women who kill their abusers: A Scottish perspective

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Significant legal and policy change related to domestic abuse has been evident in Scotland over the last forty years. Yet, despite this, no change has occurred in relation to cases in which women kill their abusers. This paper maps the significant changes which have occurred in Scotland in relation to domestic abuse, linking these to the development of the Scottish women's movement and related feminist activism. This landscape is contrasted with the inertia which has become apparent in relation to cases in which women kill their abusers. A detailed examination of the Scottish landscape is presented which includes in-depth qualitative analysis of 61 cases of this type.

Although the problems inherent to effecting change for women who kill their abusers are recognised, this paper proposes several practical changes which could be implemented to bridge the knowledge gap which has emerged in Scotland. This call to action comes at the time when the Scottish Law Commission are considering homicide and defences to murder, making it a crucial time to consider the Scottish landscape in relation to this aspect of domestic abuse.

Making children exposed to domestic violence visible in adult services

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Background:

Research about domestic violence (DV) practice with children and families has highlighted the need to support each family member in their own right, and to move away from historic representations of children as incidental, silent or invisible victims of DV. However, for families living in circumstances where both domestic violence (DV) and intersecting complexities such as parental substance misuse and mental health problems are present, practice too often renders fathers who use violence invisible, converges judgementally on mothers through “failure to protect” frames, and results in inattention to the actual impacts on children and their unique needs for recovery.

Methodology:

Recent Australian research investigated the Safe & Together™ framework as an all-of family approach to practice at the intersections of DV, substance abuse and mental health, through practitioner discussions in communities of practice, an associated survey and interviews with these practitioners and with mothers, fathers and young people. Following the original study, this data was subjected to a secondary analysis with a particular focus on children’s needs and perspectives, using qualitative thematic analysis methodology.

Findings:

Practitioners reported an increase in the degree to which they recognised the centrality of children in perpetrator patterns of power and control and the multitude of ways that children are impacted by DFV, parental AOD use and MH issues. The paper will present examples of good practice in this area.

Conclusions and Implications:

Challenges to integrate adult-focused practice with children and their needs are felt particularly in adult-focused services, but also across a number of sectors. Practitioners require skills and confidence, as well as organisational and policy support to assist them in keeping all family members in view around tactics of coercion and control, holding a focus on adult clients as parents, and rendering children visible as individuals with agency.

Keeping children's voices central to developing a common understanding of childhood domestic violence and abuse in Ireland

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The childhood domestic violence and abuse project is a collaboration between Barnardos and Tusla. At the heart of the project is a partnership approach with a range of statutory, community and voluntary agencies working with children and families who are living with domestic violence and abuse.

It aims to:

- Increase visibility of children and young people living with domestic violence and abuse.
- Support a collective and collaborative approach to identifying the needs of these children and young people and to support the delivery of effective services in response.

Central to this is clearly naming children and young people's experience, and developing a common understanding of this across services. In the early stages of our journey, it was identified that there is a gap in current national policies in relation to adequately capturing children and young people's experiences.

In addressing this:

- We established a national children's participation project. In 2020, 5 projects around Ireland worked together to support 12 children and young people through 1:1 engagement sessions to put words to their experiences of violence and abuse.
- We sought the expertise of a range of key senior personal through the national advisory group for children and domestic violence and front line services who are members of community of practice who work directly with children.
- Feedback from the three platforms combined to create our common understanding.

The Implications of including children's voices in our common understanding of childhood domestic violence and abuse:

- Increase visibility of children as victims of domestic violence and abuse in their own right.
- Fully include children and young people to have their experiences validated and their expertise recognised.
- Achieve better understanding among key universal and targeted service providers and policy makers about children and young people's experiences and to enhance collaboration in responding.

“Witnessed” violence or direct violence? Father’s Violence in Children’s Voice

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Background and purpose of the study

When men are violent against their partners (Intimate Partner Violence-IPV), children are also often involved (“Witnessing Violence”-WV). In Italy, when mothers are IPV victims, children are present or aware of violence in 66% of cases, and experience paternal direct violence in 25% of cases (ISTAT,2015). Globally, it is estimated that between 40% and 70% of abusive husbands are also abusive fathers. WV has recently attracted much attention, as it is associated with harms similar to those linked to exposure to direct violence.

Aim of this research was to explore how children experienced WV, and how the institutions (social and health services, courts and law-enforcement-agencies) responded, particularly in situations of post-separation violence.

Methods

Individual semi-structured interviews were conducted and tape-recorded with 8 young adults (5 males and 3 females; age: 18-24 years), to reconstruct their history of WV and its consequences. The anonymized transcripts were qualitatively analyzed.

Findings

All the interviewees were victims of WV and also of fathers’ physical and psychological violence. They reported negative consequences, such as decrease in concentration and in school performance, eating disorders, depression, sleep disturbances, stuttering, and substance abuse; one subject attempted suicide. When the parents separated, the violence continued and the children became instruments that the father used against the mother. This was made possible by the practices of social services and the Court, that often minimized or denied the violence.

Conclusion and implications

The main result of the study was that all children exposed to IPV and to WV, were also directly victimized by the father; professionals involved in these situations seemed to be poorly aware of this violence. The training of professionals in the social and justice sectors is urgently needed to protect the well-being of children exposed to IPV and to father’s violence.

Police Officers Do Not Need *More* Training; But *Different* Training. Policing Domestic Violence and Abuse Involving Children

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Although the police have been identified as a key service provider when responding to domestic violence and abuse (DVA), very little research have investigated their role in regards to responding to children. The aim of the current review is to examine children's experiences of police response in the context of DVA, and explore how the police understand and respond to children living with DVA.

A systematic review of the empirical literature regarding children and the police response to DVA was undertaken. A search of relevant databases PsycINFO, Web of Science and ProQuest was conducted. Search words used were "domestic violence" OR "domestic abuse" OR "intimate partner violence" OR "family violence" AND child* OR (child* and youth) AND polic* OR "law enforcement". Once relevant papers were identified, each was assessed for its relevance. A study was included if it had a qualitative element, concerned children below 18 with experience of police involvement, or police experiences of children, in the context of DVA.

Six studies were included in the final sample. Using reflexive Thematic Analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2013), four key themes emerged in regards to children's experiences; Children's Experiences of DVA; Fear, Uncertainty, and Mistrust of Police; Confronting 'Childism': a matter of children's rights; and Going beyond Empathy: Equality and Justice. Regarding police understanding and responses, three key themes emerged: Police Response; Uncertainty of Victim Status; Outside the Police Role; and Police Competencies: Limited Awareness of Impact.

Findings underline the need for awareness raising and an urgent review of training officers receive regarding the impact of DVA on children. Furthermore, the findings highlight the pivotal role of police when responding to DVA where children are present, as well as to advance the frontiers of research by including not only adults and professionals but also the most vulnerable DVA victim; the child.

Factors associated with intimate partner violence against women in Vietnam: An analysis of trends 2010-2019

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Factors associated with abuse need to be understood to plan appropriate interventions to end violence against women. Since the World Health Organization's (WHO) 2000–2003 multi-country study on domestic violence and women's health, there has been an expansion of studies that have explored male and female characteristics and their associations with intimate partner violence. Many of these studies draw on an established ecological framework which identifies known risk factors for partner violence against women. Few studies, however, have explored whether factors associated with partner violence change over time, primarily because of the scarcity of data.

Vietnam is one of few countries in the Southeast Asia Region to have conducted two nationally representative violence prevalence surveys (in 2010 and in 2019) using the WHO-based methodology. These studies provide a unique opportunity to explore changes in intimate partner violence using comparable data. Risk factor analysis uses logistic regression analysis to examine characteristics (such as age, location, education level etc.) that are likely to put women at risk of partner violence. This provides actionable information to guide policy formulation, prevention, and response beyond the descriptive statistics of prevalence and its consequences.

Analyses of the 2010 survey found that women's experiences of violence in childhood, men's behavioural characteristics (fighting with other men and alcohol use), status inconsistency (woman contributing more financially to the household than her partner), and not having sons, were strongly and significantly associated with women's higher risk of physical and/or sexual violence by a male partner in the past year. Using a comparable method, the same analysis was repeated in 2019 with slightly different results. This paper will explain the approach and findings from 2019 compared to 2010, and the impact the findings are beginning to have since being released in 2020.

Prevalence of intimate partner violence among adolescents and young women in Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam

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The kNOwVAWdata initiative supports the safe and ethical production of data on the prevalence of intimate partner violence in Asia and the Pacific. Recent surveys provide comparable data sets for analysts to explore the patterns and consequences of violence, including by the various characteristics of the survivors, such as their age.

Intimate partner violence can affect women of any age, but research has found that such violence often starts early in life, as young age and relative inexperience potentially constrains relationship power. This may especially be the case among women who married young and to older men. Adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) are also at risk of other forms of violence such as familial abuse, dating relationship violence, and sexual assaults, all of which are hypothesised to elevate their risk of intimate partner violence. Young women carry the effects of these experiences forward for the rest of their lives and may be at heightened risk of further abuse. Consequences are both immediate and long term, impacting mental health, general health, their children, and their capacity to engage in paid work.

This paper will explore the patterns of intimate partner violence among women aged 15-24 in Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam. It will describe the methods used to produce the data, followed by an exploration of the rates of physical, sexual, and psychological intimate partner violence, including severity and how these different forms of violence overlap. We then describe AGYW help-seeking behaviour, experiences of non-partner violence, and the impact of violence on health and productivity. Comparisons to older age groups will be explored to see how the experiences of young women differ.

Tracing the pathways from ‘Abused childhood’ to ‘Convicted adulthood’: Narratives of selected cases from India

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One of the earliest theories on female criminal behaviour ‘Marginalization theory’ was developed by Meda Chesney-Lind, where she proposed that victimization of women is responsible for the development of criminal behaviour. Based on this line of argument many empirical studies conducted in India by Rani Bilmoria M. (1981), Sohoni (1989), Dreze and Khera, (2000) Murthy (2013), Mili et al. (2015) have suggested that prolonged victimization of Indian women have led to the development of criminal behaviour among them. These studies have mostly identified that history of harassment and abuse during childhood have resulted in development of aggressive and abusive behaviour among adult women.

It is against this backdrop, on the basis fifteen case studies this paper aims to understand how experiences of victimization and abuse lead to violent behaviour in later phases of life for few women. Drawing from ‘Marginalization theory’ and Bourdieu’s concept of ‘Habitus’, with the help of empirical evidence, the finding of this study will analyze how prolonged victimization has been instrumental in internalization of abusive and violent behaviour among the participants.

Based on some of the findings of the study conducted for the author’s doctoral dissertation entitled ‘Crime, Women and Correctional Homes: A Case Study in West Bengal’, this paper is purely qualitative in nature. The study has used case study approach to understand the lived experiences of the participants. In-depth interviews were conducted using semi-structured interview guide, which was revised during data collection depending on emerging themes. The respondents were chosen by non-probability purposive and snowball sampling. The sample group constitutes of convicted women prisoners, who have been victims of abuse and harassment during their early life and later on, have been sentenced for committing violent offences.

An analysis of changes and trends in the prevalence of partner violence against women in Asia & the Pacific

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Global estimates indicate that one in three women have ever experienced physical and/or sexual partner by an intimate partner in their lifetime (WHO 2013). As United Nations (UN) member states strive to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, and in particular target 5.2—to eliminate all forms of violence against women (VAW) and girls — second and third waves of national prevalence surveys are being completed and beginning to document change over time.

This study assesses and compares the prevalence of physical and/or sexual partner violence over time in ten Asian and Pacific countries where at least two rounds of comparable national prevalence data were available. The analysis reviews the survey methodologies and contextual approaches to VAW corresponding with the survey periods.

Analysis is included for India, Nepal, Pakistan, Viet Nam, Cambodia, the Philippines, Timor-Leste, Kiribati, Australia, and New Zealand. We examine changes in prevalence of physical and/or sexual partner violence by type of violence (physical, sexual) and by reference periods (lifetime-any point in the woman's life and current—in the 12 months to interview).

Both lifetime and current partner violence declined over time in Nepal, Viet Nam, Pakistan and in the Philippines. Increases were seen in India and Cambodia and results were largely static in Australia.

As increasingly more countries complete multiple waves of national prevalence surveys and report on SDG target 5.2, the release of data will not be sufficient to explain change or a lack of change over time. If we are to reduce and prevent VAW globally there is a need for contextual reporting of what is perceived to be driving or preventing change. This study purports to begin to model contextual reporting of prevalence rates over time.

The Virtual Crime Scene House and Criminal Justice Practitioner Training in Domestic Violence and Abuse

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Whilst heralded as 'everyone's business' the criminal justice system, the organisations that comprise it and the individuals within them have struggled to demonstrate understanding of the complexity of the multi-faceted nature of domestic violence and abuse leading to problems in operationalising effective interventions to best protect victims and prevent re-victimisation by abusers.

We are a community justice 'pracademic' (academic practitioner) team (we span the criminal justice system from police through to probation) involved in developing the use of technology to create digital learning tools to enhance the student learning experience within higher education.

Our focus is on professionally accredited criminology and criminal justice programmes with a focus on increasing recognition/identification of control tactics beyond the physical domain in domestic violence and abuse with our student practitioners.

While we are exploring both Virtual Reality Photospheres (Immersive Panoramas) and Augmented Reality this poster focuses on the former. Our project aimed to increase student practitioner individuals (pre-qualifying training) understanding of the complex interplay of coercive controlling behaviours utilised by abusers via curious inquiry by utilising the immersive panorama virtual reality crime scene scenarios within their programmes of study.

Preliminary findings suggest the use of Immersive Panoramas is a safe and effective way to explore control tactics utilized by abusers in the arena of domestic violence and abuse which both increases understanding and awareness.

Scotland and the Criminal Justice System: The Lived Experiences of Victims of Coercive Control and Stalking

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Scotland's track record in tackling stalking and coercive control has been identified as an exemplar. Part of this is a proactive approach to providing a victim centred criminal justice system. For women who have sought support from the criminal justice system in relation to these issues, it is critical that they are able to exercise some control when coming from a context of having none. Despite victim-centred policy priorities and support victims can continue to feel disempowered and controlled by the process. Furthermore, the abuse may persist during and beyond conviction, sentencing and punishment, exacerbating feelings of disempowerment.

Our paper will present preliminary findings from our Scottish Government funded study to explore the lived experiences of victims of stalking and/or coercive control as they navigate (or have previously navigated) their way through the criminal justice system. It will focus on feelings of empowerment or disempowerment experienced by victims as their journey through the criminal justice system progresses.

Risk Refraction: Thoughts on the Victim-Survivor's Risk Journey through the Criminal Justice Process.

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The limits of inter-agency understandings of risk in the context of intimate partner violence are well documented. Informed by Hester's (2011) 'three-planet' analogy and using empirical data in one police force area in the South of England, this paper offers an exploration of intra agency working, focussing on police risk assessment practices. Exploring the policing risk lens and victim-survivor journey together, findings highlight police operating with at least three risk assessment moments (call-handler, front-line and Safeguarding Hub) and point to the tensions which result when failing to centralise victim-survivors' own assessment of their risk. Using complexity theory the paper examines the complex interplay of risk which occurs when the victim-survivor risk journey transverses the policing aspect of the criminal justice process.

The treatment of offenders of domestic violence in probation

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Slovenian Probation Administration is an independent body of the Ministry of Justice, established in January 2018. Apart from presentation of vision, organization and placement of probation in Slovenian professional field and presentation of protective supervision over probationers in cooperation with respective various governmental and non-governmental organizations, in this presentation we are going to present the treatment of offenders of domestic violence in probation. Probation administration has responsibility to implement community sanctions and measures upon suspects and offenders decided by judicial authority. The enforcement of an alternative criminal sanction enables individuals to successfully integrate into the community and ensures greater security for society. Probation officers provide risk assessment of reoffending and as well an assistance in resolving personal distress and problems, regulating life circumstances, and establishing prosocial behaviour. Probation administration has nine main tasks by the law. One of the main goals of probation is orientation to help, protect and control probationers to reduce the risk of reoffending and more successful integration into society. The authors will present a study of all community sanctions implemented on convicts of crimes against marriage, family and children, charged under the law Articles 188-195, Of Criminal Code (KZ-1, Republic of Slovenia), which were in treatment in the period 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2019. It will be presented the socio and economic analysis of all perpetrators of domestic violence in Slovenia. The analyses will try to answer the question who the perpetrators of domestic violence are. We will see the main social characteristic of probationer of domestic violence. The author will present the overview and comparison of sanction in Europe and discuss further focus how to work with perpetrators of domestic violence in probation.

What works to address violence against women and family violence within faith settings? Experiences of diverse Australian faith communities

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Faith leaders provide social, moral and ethical guidance for their communities, and may provide invaluable support to women experiencing violence. Faith settings are environments where social norms and networks are formed, and these have the potential to prevent violence against women. However, faith leaders and faith communities may also promote norms and relationships that drive or condone the use of violence. Faith settings are therefore an important context for targeted activities to prevent violence against women. This presentation outlines findings from Faith for Change, an intervention to build faith leader capacity to prevent and respond to violence against women and family violence. The project is funded by the Victorian State Government (Australia), and works with Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Sikh communities, in partnership with researchers at the University of Melbourne and practitioners at the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health.

The project team synthesised an in-depth review of international literature to develop an evidence guide for faith communities seeking to prevent and respond to violence against women. Each faith community implemented evidence-based activities to build faith leader and community capacity, and processes and outcomes associated with this were evaluated using mixed methods (in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, participant surveys, and document review).

While past research has emphasised that diversity between faith communities poses a challenge for interfaith violence prevention work, findings from this project highlight the significance of heterogeneity within faith communities. Prevention-oriented work that focuses on gender inequality can cause tension within faith communities. Faith leaders, including lay people leading work on violence against women, need strategies to manage backlash and resistance. Faith communities need support to integrate the concept of intersectionality in work to prevent violence, and for two way learning with the specialist violence response sector. Findings have international significance for prevention efforts in faith communities globally.

Pathways to Prevention: Elevating Practice Based Knowledge on Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls

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In the past decade, significant gains have been made in the field of prevention of violence against women and girls (VAW/G) research. These include advances in global policy and the inclusion of EVAW/G in the Sustainable Development Goals, a strong global health plan of action on prevention, a growing evidence base demonstrating that violence is preventable and increased recognition of the role of civil society organizations (CSOs). At the same time, gaps in VAW/G prevention research remain. Global evidence remains skewed to high income countries, to quantitative data, and to responses to current violence. Critically, the emphasis on researcher-driven methodologies and global North-driven priorities means that practice-based knowledge (PBK) grounded in the experience of CSOs, remains as tacit knowledge, rather than being systematically put into conversation with the evidence base.

To bridge this gap, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, the only global grantmaking mechanism dedicated to eradicating all forms of violence against women and girls, commissioned a review of PBK on VAW/G prevention, engaging 100 of its projects, particularly those which are CSO-led and implemented between 2015-2020. The review uses a qualitative, inductive approach, surfacing the experiences of practitioners in 60+ countries, through focus group discussions and content analysis of their evaluations and project reports, thereby offering textured findings on the hows and whys of prevention.

This analysis surfaced ten pathways as particularly relevant to VAW/G prevention: Mobilizing women from beneficiaries to actors, Adolescent-focused approaches, Community Mobilization, Engaging faith-based and traditional actors, Training for behaviour change, Engaging intersecting vulnerabilities, Collaboration for law and policy reform, Multi-sector responses, Resistance and backlash, and Adaptive programming. A deep dive into each pathway has resulted in a significant body of PBK grounded in practitioner voices, which can help inform the next generation of prevention programming, policy and funding from below.

The double shame of being poor and abused. Women's feelings of shame in the aftermath of men's violence and financial abuse in intimate relationships.

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The paper is based on analyses of interviews with 19 women being victims/survivors of men's violence. The analysis focus on how the women – after breaking up from their abusive partner – formulate feelings of shame related to experiences of being subjected to different forms of men's violence, including financial abuse.

Theoretically the paper consider shame as socially constructed, but psychologically and materially experienced, formed by structures as gender and class. Working from a broad definition of shame the paper shows how women's narratives on being subjected to men's violence in intimate relationships relates to shame in different ways – as a continuum of everyday embarrassments and more degrading, humiliating, and devastating forms. Sometimes the women refer to shame explicit, but more often it appears more implicit when sharing experiences, thoughts and feelings of being in the position of a victim/survivor of men's violence – in relation to ex-partners, family, friends, social workers etc.

The analysis show that women who have experienced men's violence including financial abuse experience a double shame, where economic and social aspects of shame intersects. Economic aspects of shame appear when women talk about being/have become/poor – in the relation with an abusive partner – with associations to conditions as poverty, economic scarcity, low social status, and social vulnerability. The other aspect of shame that appears in the analysis deals with social bonds and relations, associated with the position of being a victim/survivor of men's violence.

The paper has the ambition to contribute both to the research on shame and to research on women's experiences of men's violence in intimate relationships, and by extension, improve professionals interventions when working with women being affected of men's violence and the intersecting forms of shame related to it.

Domestic Violence and Disability in India Explored in Relation to the Sustainable Development Goals

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It is well-recognised that domestic violence and abuse (DVA) has significant health and social impacts on people who experience it and that women are disproportionately affected. When DVA intersects with disability, the impacts can be exacerbated. Disabled women experience emotional, physical and sexual abuse at higher rates than the women in the general population. Moreover they experience disabilist violence and simultaneous oppression across the life course at individual, organisational, and societal levels. This is a global problem issue. The specific impacts upon women when DVA and disability intersect is addressed quite extensively in extant literature. We suggest the importance of using an intersectional framework of analysis to understand the particular experiences of DVA for disabled women in India. First, our presentation will highlight some of the general literature about DVA and disability, and how the intersection of these incites multiple discrimination for disabled women. This is followed by an exploration of these in the context of India. In the latter part of the presentation we focus on what is being done in India to tackle the discrimination of disabled women who experience DVA. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are used as a discussion framework. In conclusion we discuss the role of the SDGs and other policies in tackling DVA and disability. Although much of our discussion focuses on India, the majority of issues that we explore are transferable quite readily to other countries and contexts.

Sexual violence within intimate relationships

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Since 2013, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) has contributed to improving administrative data collection across all EU Member States. This has culminated in the development of 13 indicators on intimate partner violence (IPV) against women, including for victims of sexual intimate partner violence. EIGE has also developed a definition of SIPV based on lack of consent, in order to guide data collection for the corresponding indicator.

The key findings from the assessment of the data collected on SIPV include:

- Seven EU Member States have comparable data for women victims of SIPV and a further 12 have data available. For these Member States, data were collected but do not adhere to EIGE's definitions, chiefly because data cover the number of offences rather than victims.
- The identification of intimate partner relations between the victim and the perpetrator is the main challenge in achieving, as many jurisdictions only have data with broad definitions of domestic violence instead of intimate partner violence, in this sense only 12 MS have data disaggregated on victim perpetrator-relationship and on the sex of the victim.
- Most Member State definitions include sexual violence as a component of IPV, domestic violence or a sexual offence where the victim-perpetrator relationship is recorded.
- In total, Germany has the highest number of victims for 2018 (3086), and also accounts for the highest rate per 100,000 women population (7,4), followed by Finland (3,9) and Czechia (2,2).

The outcomes of this research demonstrate that the EU is inching its way towards comparable data on SIPV. However, there is a need for greater and more harmonised data collection across EU Member States to improve comparability. This will help to set the foundations for policymakers at both the EU and Member State levels to develop data-responsive policies towards combatting SIPV.

Covid-19 and the process of domestic abuse policymaking across the UK: catalyst or diversion?

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Background: In early 2020, as the Covid-19 pandemic drove nations across the world into lockdown, significant concerns were raised about the impact of the 'stay at home' message for people experiencing domestic abuse and, almost immediately, reports of increased prevalence of abuse began to appear. Also ongoing at this time was a period of intense policy and practice development relating to domestic abuse in the UK. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, new legislation was making its way through the Westminster and Stormont parliaments. Indeed, between 2015 and March 2020, across the four nations of the UK, legislation had been introduced, or was in the process of being introduced, to the relevant parliaments.

Study aim: With a particular focus on the connections between housing and domestic abuse policy, this project aimed to address the question of how developing policy agendas, understandings and solutions might be impacted – for better or for worse – by Covid-19 and its response.

Methods: following a detailed desk-based policy analysis of domestic abuse policy in the four nations and to its connections to housing policy and practice up to the start of the pandemic (completed and published in February 2021), we will interview key housing and domestic abuse stakeholders in each of the 4 nations in Spring 2021. Interviews will focus on a range of policy issues potentially at stake and will consider if and how the pandemic has influenced policy development and debates. Has COVID-19 and its associated public health responses augmented connections between housing and domestic abuse policy and practice, has it put these at risk or is the direction of policy development unchanged?

'He'd say I was making it up': Survivor narratives of Intimate Partner Sexual Violence

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Sexual violence within intimate partner relationships has been linked with some of the worst mental health outcomes and increased risk of suicide attempts for victims/survivors. This implies that the needs of survivors of IPSV are under-served in current provision. However, little is understood about how interventions might be differentiated to meet their needs. As part of a study into the effectiveness of a domestic abuse perpetrator programme (REPROVIDE), female partners and ex-partners of men concerned about their behaviour in intimate relationships took part in interviews about their experiences of intimate partner violence and its impact on their health. This has provided insight into victim/survivor perspectives of intimate partner sexual violence (IPSV) that can help inform practice. Women's narratives were shaped by a context of coercive control, to such a degree that some described IPSV as an example of emotional abuse used to 'try to get into my head'. The temporal space around sexual abuse 'incidents' were significant, such as pre-incident emotional coercion and post-incident emotional withdrawal if sexual activity was not provided. IPSV whilst the victim/survivor was asleep was a common experience for the sample of women interviewed, followed by manipulation of memories or partial memories of these events. The victim/survivor's memories of IPSV were often challenged and minimised, and inconsistent responses from their partner caused confusion. The impacts on women were broad, but questioning their own memories and a lack of confidence in their reality were commonly described. For some women regular and persistent affirmation of the women's memories and belief systems by support workers was essential. Themes from these interviews offer insight into victim/survivor narratives of IPSV that can be used as a platform for further investigation into differentiated interventions for IPSV.

Intersection of sexual violence and domestic violence

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Sexual violence (SV) and Domestic violence (DV) are fundamental forms of gender-based violence. While for the majority of societies the field of DV became more acceptable theme to put efforts in, SV remains out of focus.

SV has been still well-kept in silence, covered by stigma. It is not recognized, there is a mistrust in experiences of survivors and low number of reports.

The majority of public policies for combating DV does not recognize SV at all or it hardly does. It seems like it is fully forgotten that SV has been an integral part of DV.

The latest researches point out a significant interconnection between DV and SV which should be a serious alarm that something has to be changed urgently.

SV within a family is the least recognized - both against children and women. Because of existing prejudices there is still a room for maintaining the myth about a "real rape" as well as for specific "blind spot".

According to research data, between 40 % and 45 % of women will experience SV in relationships/ marriage where DV occurs. For women who experienced physical and SV in the family, there is a higher likelihood they will be aggravated bodily harmed or murdered, comparing to victims of other forms of DV.

Trauma-informed practice and researches shows that women who survived SV by intimate partners suffer from more serious and longer-term consequences compared both to women who experienced SV from other offenders, as well as to women who are exposed to DV but not to SV.

In 18% of cases, women were raped in front of their children.

Taking into consideration all previously mentioned, it is the last moment to introduce SV issue as an integral part of all public policies and procedures for combating DV.

Creating enabling environments: feminist advocacy and Scotland's "gold standard" domestic abuse law

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Women and men and girls and boys live very different lives. Familiarity with the dynamics of gender enables the development of policy and laws that disrupt the unequal distribution of power, prosperity, and safety in our families, communities, and institutions and promote social justice. Gender competence is thus required for activists, governments, and state institutions to develop and deliver policy and practice that sees oppression, understands how it works, and then dismantles it.

In February 2018, the Scottish Parliament passed the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill 2018, called the world's "new gold standard" for domestic abuse law. The new law, developed with "unprecedented" involvement of survivors and organisations devoted to improving women's and children's rights, broke new ground by reflecting the experiences of women and children who were living with domestic abuse.

The feminist political and social discourse that produced the Act rested on decades of feminist activism in Scotland. The savvy politicking from an established feminist infrastructure (i.e., feminist organisations supported by strong relationships between feminists inside and outside government and Parliament) injected the powerful stories of survivors into policymaking and changed policy processes.

Gender justice advocates continue to argue that policy and programmes that lack gender competence are simply incompetent, ineffective, and costly. The policy landscape in Scotland has shifted profoundly as a consequence of the new Act, as demonstrated in subsequent passage of the Children (Scotland) Act 2020.

The development and passage of the new law offers a feminist theory of change and a template for progressive feminist domestic abuse policy. Our presentation will explore the gendering of the policy process, the importance of gender infrastructure and feminist civil society, the notable features of the law, and the impact of an unprecedented engagement by officials with victim-survivors and their advocates in the law's development and passage.

Lessons from criminalising control-based domestic abuse in Scotland: Why children should have been recognised as ‘adjoined victims’ under the criminal law

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Background and purpose of the study: The question of how the criminal law should capture the harms children experience as a result of control-based domestic abuse has received insufficient scholarly attention. This research addresses that gap through an innovative analysis of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018. While this Act has been described as a ‘gold standard’ offence when it comes to criminalising control-based abuse within intimate partner relationships, our research demonstrates that the law falls short when it comes to recognising the interlinked experiences of, and harms caused to, children.

Methods: This research involves a critical examination of the current Scots law approach, using an interdisciplinary approach to address the current gap in legal scholarship. This analysis includes consideration of the principles that should normatively inform criminalisation decisions, and integrates these with relevant sociological research examining how children are harmed by control-based abuse.

Findings: The current Scots law approach is inadequate. The use of an aggravator model in the 2018 Act, whereby a child’s ‘exposure’ to abuse is treated as an ‘aggravating factor’ in relation to the offence committed against the adult, is out of line with what research tells us about how children experience the harms of control-based domestic abuse. Trying to ‘plug the gap’ through wider reform of child abuse and neglect legislation, as planned in Scotland, may further obfuscate the distinct nature of domestic abuse as an offence against children.

Conclusions and implications: The exclusion of children from the enhanced legal protection offered by the criminal law to victims of control-based domestic abuse in Scotland is wrong in principle. We argue that children should be recognised as ‘adjoined victims’ of control-based domestic abuse under the 2018 Act. Our conclusions are of relevance to other jurisdictions, where conversations around criminalising control-based domestic abuse are ongoing.

“Is it relevant?” Professional attitudes to domestic abuse in civil court ordered Child Welfare Reports in Scottish contact cases

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INTRODUCTION:

Based on a qualitative study, this paper critically examines the how allegations of domestic abuse are addressed by Civil Court appointed Child Welfare Reporters in Scotland. The Courts must, by statute, "have regard to" abuse or the potential of abuse when making a S.11 Order for contact. Child Welfare Hearing Reports (CWH Reports) are the one of the main mechanisms for used by Scottish judges to ingather evidence about the child (children) in contested contact actions. Earlier research by the author highlighted widespread concerns raised by mothers and third sector organisations about the reluctance of Child Welfare Reporters, typically family law practitioners, to include or address in their reports to the judge allegations of domestic abuse.

METHOD:

Based on a qualitative research this presentation focuses on the preparation and use of Child Welfare Reports in contact cases in which domestic abuse is/was a feature.

FINDING The paper focuses on the attitudes of court appointed child welfare reporters towards claims by mothers of domestic abuse. This paper highlights that despite reforms introduced by the Lord President in 2015 (and based on earlier research by the author) to the selection and appointment of Child Welfare Reporters, there remain issues around their understanding of and attitude towards domestic abuse and its long term impact on children. In particular, the research demonstrates the ongoing limited understanding of the dynamics of domestic abuse and the need for trauma informed practice for legal professionals seeking appointment to prepare CWH Reports.

CONCLUSION:

The research and its findings are timely as the Scottish Government will hold a public consultation on Child Welfare Reporters and proposed changes set out, but not implemented, in the Children (Scotland) Act 2020.

Discourses of violence in high court rulings on restraining orders: An example from Iceland.

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Legal provisions of restraining orders exist in all Nordic countries with the purpose of protecting subjects from further harassment and domestic violence. In Iceland, the General Penal Code from 1940 stipulates a possible eviction of a violent person from her home to protect family members. The code has been amended several times including the introduction of provision of restraining orders. The latest was issued in year 2019, then including the right to appeal such cases. There has been an increase in appeal cases regarding restraining order rulings handled by the Icelandic high court. We analysed a sample of such cases during the years 2000 to 2016 to depict constructions of the violence asking the questions: How is the violence in question described in the rulings? What kind of violence precedes the orders? How are particular subject positions constituted by the legal provision and in the court rulings? As argued by Althusser, one becomes a subject by entering a discourse in which one occupies subject positions. We draw on critical discourse analysis and Foucault's understanding on discourse, knowledge and power. We analyzed 25 high court rulings which were reread and thematized. The intention was to map out discursive constitutions of the violence in high court rulings. Physical and mental abuse were the most common suspected breaches in cases where adults were involved. The perpetrator was most often male who commonly had a long and repeated criminal career. Cases where children were victims regarded custody and contact disputes, children's care and parent's serious abuse of own children. The court decisions reflect, not surprisingly, legal aspects, most commonly stressing the necessity of protecting subjects, but also general preventative argumentation. The scrutinization of minority opinions showed a stronger weight on emotional aspects and thus displayed interestingly a different socio-psychological discourse.

Elderly women's experiences of Intimate Partner Violence: Giving voice to silent stories.

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Intimate Partner Violence is a significant social and public health problem that has a high prevalence in most societies. Although society visualizes young women or middle-aged women as main and sole victims of this phenomenon, the truth is that elderly women are especially vulnerable to it.

This research qualitatively explores IPV situations of women age 50 and older by trying to: identify the beginning of the violent situations; analyze the types of abuse perpetrated by older men against their partners; and understand women's interpretation of the violent experiences they have been subjected to.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with women aged 55 years or older receiving services from six agencies for victims of violence (shelters, social services, associations, and support groups for women who had experienced IPV) in Bilbao and San Sebastian (Basque Country, Spain).

The analysis revealed that the participants in the study often reported having started their romantic relationship with the abusers when they were teenagers. Even during the early years of the relationship, women were able to identify certain violent behaviors or even some alcoholic attitudes on their partners. However, their belief that they would change these attitudes made them continue with the abusive relationship. Although several women tried to abandon the violent relationship before getting married, this seemed an impossible alternative for them because of the constant threats they were being subjected to.

Psychological violence was a constant in their relationship and was the most common type of violence experienced by the women taking part in the study. More specifically, it was extensive in the early years of the relationship and continued until later years to a much greater extent than physical abuse.

This research can contribute to exposing the phenomenon and developing appropriate intervention methods when working with elderly women.

Elder Abuse Vulnerability and Risk Factors: Is Financial Abuse Different from other Subtypes?

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Background and Purpose of the Study. Elder abuse (EA) affects over 15% of older adults annually, and financial EA, the second most common type of EA, severely impacts victims and has a substantial societal cost. Understanding vulnerability and risk factors for EA is essential to its prevention and management; however, there is limited research regarding the relationship between these factors and different EA types, particularly financial abuse. **Methods.** This study utilised secondary data from a UK national helpline (N = 1,238) gathered over a 3-year period to study vulnerability and risk factors for EA victimization and perpetration, and victim-perpetrator relationship, in relation to different EA types (financial only, financial co-occurring with other types, and non-financial abuse). A Kruskal-Wallis test was used to investigate whether there were differences in the number of vulnerability and risk factors between EA types. Multinomial logistic regression was conducted to examine said factors and the victim-perpetrator relationship (family vs non-family) in relation to EA types. **Findings.** There were significantly more victim vulnerability and perpetrator risk factors in cases of non-financial abuse and financial abuse co-occurring compared to financial abuse only. Several vulnerability factors such as the victim's dependency and their co-habitation with the perpetrator were significantly more common in cases that were not exclusively financial. In cases that involved other types of abuse, the perpetrator was more likely to have problems with their physical or mental health, substance abuse problems, and display problematic attitudes. A family relationship was also more likely in cases that were not exclusively financial. **Conclusions and Implications.** Findings indicate that financial abuse, occurring in isolation, is distinct from other EA types with respect to vulnerability and risk factors, and the victim-perpetrator relationship. This suggests that risk assessment, intervention, and research should consider financial abuse separately to other forms of EA.

Elder abuse from the victims' perspective. A qualitative study among hospitalized older adults in Sweden.

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Background and Purpose:

Elder abuse is underreported and undertreated. Methods for prevention and intervention are beginning to be developed, but the knowledge guiding such measures is often insufficiently built on the victims' own voices due to a paucity of studies. The aim of this study was to explore perceptions of elder abuse among the victims themselves.

Methods:

Consecutive inpatients ≥ 65 years of age at a hospital clinic in Sweden were invited to participate, and with help of a screening instrument, 24 victims of elder abuse were identified. Semi structured interviews were conducted, and transcripts were analyzed using qualitative content analysis.

Findings:

Exposure to psychological abuse and neglect were most common, but experiences of economical, physical, and sexual abuse were also conveyed. Participants told about abuse in both family relations and in care services. An important finding was that the experience of elder abuse is best understood in light of previous life-experiences. Exposure to abuse in childhood and adulthood had a strong impact on the experience of elder abuse, but it was also evident that supportive relations through life contributed to a sense of security and meaningfulness despite adversities in life. Another important finding was the importance of vulnerability of aging and diseases which led to dependance on others and a reduced autonomy that strongly influenced the experience of elder abuse.

Conclusion and Implications:

This study is one of the few qualitative studies that explore perceptions of elder abuse among the victims themselves. We found that the experiences were influenced by previous victimization and life-circumstances. Likewise, the consequences of elder abuse were dependent on life-history and vulnerabilities. This implicates that components of prevention and intervention for elder abuse should be individually tailored to match the needs and preferences of the older adults.

Violence against older women – how could specialists find, help and support them to maintain dignified life?

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Violence against older women is a serious and under-addressed social problem. It is estimated that 19% of women in Europe over 60 years of age have experienced violence in their lives . Only 14% of women reported the most serious incident to the police. The number of unreported cases is estimated to be much higher. Older women are exposed to a higher risk of violence due to vulnerabilities linked to their age. Many have also been affected by years of partner violence, faced various forms of discrimination throughout their lives may be economically dependent on their abusers – especially if they are already in need of care.

Abuse of older women is in many ways even more difficult to address than for younger women. For example, abusers in these situations can be intimate partners, (in)formal caregivers and/or family members. These relationships cannot be as easily untangled when the abuser is a child or when the victim is dependent on their caregiver. The reasons for abuse are likewise more complex, for example when the abuser is also elderly and/or suffering from neurodegenerative disease.

As a result, community responses to abuse of older women is often inadequate. A major reason for this is that they require the collaboration of multiple public agencies and private organizations. Through the MARVOW project, teams have been working to bring together public agencies and domestic violence practitioners in 6 communities in 3 European countries to explore the gaps that exist in this domain. Our team is the process of conducting dozens of meetings, focus groups and interviews with over one hundred professionals to identify common systematic gaps as well as solutions for dealing with them. At the ECDV, we will present our preliminary findings.

Sociological and criminal investigation aspects of violence against parents by adult children

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According to some authors (e.f. Golding et al., 2004), the population of ageing people is growing, which will probably lead to an increase in the frequency of elder abuse. It is suggested that the perpetrator of such violence is an adult child, whereby these cases are, especially in situations when the child is a caregiver, severe family and social problem. Thus, the factors that can contribute to this type of violence between family members can be found in the features of the victim, perpetrator and other family members and the context in which they all live. Besides, older people are targets for negative attitudes due to their age, and stigma is even greater when the violence against parents by adult children is discussed. Detection hinders the lack of definition(s), ambiguous indicators resulting from ageing or violence, and underreporting.

Furthermore, in the investigation process and proving, investigators are challenged with issues, such as gathering sufficient evidence, stereotypes and myths and non-participation of the victim and other family members. To successfully investigate and prevent secondary victimization, investigators need to know the characteristics of violence of adult children against parents, be aware of the vulnerable nature of (older) victims, and be able to identify the stereotypes and myths by which alleged perpetrators justify their actions. This contribution presents a literature review and a starting point for investigating sociological and criminal investigation aspects of violence against parents by adult children.

Illicit drugs and domestic violence from the perspective of a criminal police investigator

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Domestic violence has accompanied humanity from the very beginning, and its forms have changed little over time. Victims of domestic violence are the weakest members of society. Police officers deal with the issue of domestic violence directly, by intervening in the event of an outbreak of violence, as well as indirectly in performing other tasks. Published data show that the abuse of illicit drugs increases the risk of domestic violence. However, little is known about the direct link between illicit drug use and domestic violence. It has been shown that the risk of domestic violence increased up to four times with cannabis use and up to three times with cocaine use. An increased incidence of violence has also been observed among methamphetamine users. To the best of our knowledge, no similar studies have been done in Slovenia. The aim of this presentation is to present our experiences with the problem of illicit drugs combined with domestic violence. While investigating criminal offenses in the field of illicit drugs, we have repeatedly encountered the issue of domestic violence. Our experience is in line with the published data. The increased supply and use of illicit drugs have probably increased the incidence of domestic violence. While investigating criminal offenses in the field of illicit drugs with special measures, we often come across domestic violence. However, legislation in Slovenia does not allow us to use the findings that we came across (for example child neglect) as direct evidence. We can only use these findings in a cognitive sense. Although this causes a problem in proving a criminal offense, police officers do everything in their power to protect the victim of violence.

Report to the Police? The Impact of Police Responses to Domestic Violence

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A “pro-report” policy has been applied for many years in Sweden regarding intimate partner violence, promoted by the women’s shelter movement, the media and the police authority. Nevertheless, many cases remain unreported and many women hesitate to participate in the legal process.

This article deals with women who do report and participate in the following police investigation. The data set comprises 27 interviews, eight of them with eight women who had sought support at a Crisis Center and 19 of them with members from the women’s social networks, including mothers, ex-husbands, relatives, friends and co-workers. The interviews were analyzed according to thematic narrative analyze practices. The article examines the victims’ and social network members’ expectations of the police and how they were affected by the police response.

All women had hesitated to report to the police. Members of their networks had tried to convince them of the seriousness, encouraged them to leave and make a formal report to the police. Network members’ efforts had been met with reluctance that was perceived as reflective of the tension between wanting to deny that the violence had happened and the desire to speak openly about it. Once this conflict was articulated, network members were generally able to provide better support to the women at risk of revictimization.

All women described the police officers as respectful and affirmative. However, only two cases resulted in a prosecution and conviction, leaving the majority of women disappointed with the criminal justice system. The article concludes with a discussion of what can be counted as responsive and responsible responses to domestic violence, from the state and the social network, respectively, and argues that we need to more fully capitalize on the power of the latter given the seeming impossibility of the former delivering vastly better justice outcomes.

Holding Offenders Accountable and Measures to Prevent Re-victimization: Prosecution of IPV Against Women in Slovakia

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According to Art.45, par.1 of the Istanbul Convention states parties shall take measures to ensure that the offences are punishable by "...proportionate and dissuasive sanctions including the deprivation of liberty. Although the Slovak Penal Code doesn't recognize the criminal offence of domestic violence, the crime of maltreatment of a close and entrusted person is seen as specialized to prosecute domestic violence. The respective Art.208 of the Penal Code provisions a term of imprisonment of 3 to 8 years and 7 to 15 years in case of aggravating circumstances. Consequently, suspended sentencing might be imposed only in exceptional circumstances and the court should impose restrictions or obligations to the perpetrator. The proposed paper explores the outcomes of the prosecution of IPV against women under the Art.208 with regard to the victims' right to protection. It is based on the quantitative and qualitative analysis of 117 court decisions for the period of 1.1.2017 to 30.6.2018 as published in the official database of court decisions. Based on the analysis, the minimum penalty was imposed in the majority of cases. In cases punishable by a prison sentence of 3 to 8 years only 4% of the imposed sentences were higher than 3 years and in 65% of convictions courts issued suspended sentences. Under aggravating circumstances, only 9% of convicts were sentenced to imprisonment higher than 7 years and in 36% of convictions the courts issued suspended sentences. Moreover, only in 17% of cases restrictions or obligations were imposed as a part of the probation supervision. Results indicate that the prosecution and criminal courts in Slovakia do not sufficiently denounce IPV and do not pay sufficient attention to the protection of victims. Thus, the conviction of the perpetrator of IPV only partially fulfils the objectives of individual and general crime prevention provided by criminal law.

An exploration of the experiences of intimate partner violence among gay men in Ireland

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Aim: This study explored experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV) among gay men in Ireland.

Background: IPV in same-sex relationships is an under-explored phenomenon accounting for a tiny fraction of total research on IPV. Empirical evidence has demonstrated the incidence of same-sex IPV to be similar and higher in some cases than heterosexual relationships (Rollè et al., 2018). Much of the research on IPV in the Irish context has focused on heterosexual relationships. Consequently, little is known about the lived experience of gay victims of IPV and the experience of disclosing their abuse to others.

Methods: Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis was used as the analytic framework to explore in depth accounts of three participants who provided extensive accounts of their IPV experiences. Purposive and snowball sampling were used to recruit to this hard to reach group.

Findings: Preliminary findings indicate the presence of verbal, physical, psychological IPV and coercive control in participants' accounts. Relationship intensity appeared to be a feature of relationships, meaning same-sex relationships formed and progressed quickly with rapid escalation of IPV. IPV was experienced in first time same-sex relationships by all participants and was followed by a reluctance to engage in any meaningful relationships after this experience. A reluctance to disclose the abuse to friends and family was also evident. No participant sought professional support.

Conclusions and implications:

Whilst similarities in the presence of IPV was identified, the nature of these relating to the context and intensity of a same-sex relationship highlights a key need for gender sensitive responses to men experiencing same-sex IPV.

Reference:

Rollè, L., Giardina, G., Caldarera, A. M., Gerino, E., & Brustia, P. (2018). When Intimate Partner Violence Meets Same Sex Couples: A Review of Same Sex Intimate Partner Violence. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 9. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2018.01506>

A Scoping Review of Intimate Partner Violence as it Relates to the Perspectives of Gay and Bisexual Men

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Background: It is estimated that one in four gay men and four in 10 bisexual men have experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) in their lifetime. To date, IPV has been largely studied in the context of a heterosexual female experience. Recent research suggests that IPV prevalence in sexual minority male to male relationships is as high or equal to rates to that of heterosexual women, meaning that gay and bisexual men are potentially disproportionately affected.

Methods: 28 studies representing 13,224 sexual minority male participants were included in a published scoping review to collate what is known about IPV in male sexual minority populations. Studies between the years 1931 and 2019, with a predominant focus on violence amongst gay and bisexual men, were included.

Findings: Results indicate that gay and bisexual men experience violence from male intimate partners differently than from that of mixed-sex or heterosexual couples. In conjunction with experiences of psychological, sexual and physical violence, gay and bisexual men encounter unique features of violence, including the threat to have their sexual orientation outed to society, heightened sexual risk-taking, experiences of societal and internalised homophobia and discrimination related to their sexuality as well as difficulties accessing support services. Research exploring such distinctive features amongst diverse sexual minority groups remains limited.

Conclusions and implications: By establishing what is known about IPV among this marginalized group, a vocabulary and space is offered in which to discuss the phenomenon of same-sex intimate partner violence, an issue often neglected in social and academic discourses. This scoping review has paved the way for gaps in the knowledge base to be identified, and provides directions for future scholarship. It is anticipated that the findings will inform policies and services how best to reach out and support victims of IPV as well as the wider LGBTI community.

Domestic violence against LGBTI+ children and young people in Slovenia: results of EU project

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Background

The aim of this presentation is to share the main results of the two-year EU project "Diversity and Childhood" (DG JUST, REC 2014-2020). The project focuses on violence against LGBTI+ children and young people due to non-compliance with gender norms, and considers it a form of gender-based violence. The aim of the project was first to explore the phenomenon and then to address knowledge gaps of experts in the areas of education, health, public space, media and family services. For this presentation, we have extracted and analysed data on the context of domestic violence against LGBTI+ children and young people collected in Slovenia.

Methods

A mixed methods approach was used. A snowball method and other non-probability sampling techniques were used to recruit respondents. The data collection took place from January to March 2020. A total of 10 stakeholders were interviewed, 72 online surveys were completed, and two research workshops were conducted with children.

Findings

The findings show that violence against LGBTI+ children and young people persists across different areas of their lives. One of the most frequently expressed needs of LGBTI+ children is the need for acceptance and safety. The potential conflict and violence in the family following coming out often go hand in hand with hidden homelessness, and young people rarely exercise their legal right to financial support from parents. Their needs are often neglected in schools, social and health services, which are still largely based on the assumption of a binary system of gender and sexuality.

Conclusions

Professionals recognize lack of knowledge and the inevitability of adopting the tools to address the oppressive contexts in which LGBTI+ children live. To bridge knowledge gap and empower children, the project is creating several materials (interactive app for children, a handbook for professionals, MOOC) and planning several trainings for professionals.

Uni4Freedom. Preventing violence against LGBTQI+ community in Catalan Universities

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Gender-based violence against the LGBTQI+ community persists as relevant problem worldwide. For instance, drawing on the widest survey of LGBTQI+ people involving 28 European countries, a 26% of the more than 93.000 LGBTQI+ interviewees were beaten or intimidated with violence between 2008 and 2013 (FRA, 2014). In this line, an important amount of research corroborates the existence of this kind of violence in higher education institutions (HEI) (Rankin, 2010). However, there was no research in Spain which paid attention on this last phenomenon. With the purpose of cover this gap, Uni4Freedom project, funded by the Caixa Bank Social Foundation, started from the hypothesis that gender-based violence against LGBTQI+ students in Catalan HEI was an unattended problem. Therefore, UNI4Freedom's main objective was the improvement of the quality of life of the LGBTQI+ students by breaking the silence on the violence towards them. Aimed at responding to this objective, the communicative methodology of research (CMR) was employed to identify barriers and transformative elements that overcome violence in HEIs. Three different data collection instruments, qualitative and quantitative-oriented, were conducted. Firstly, a questionnaire addressed to 469 students across Catalan universities was implemented. Secondly, 12 daily life stories with LGBTQI+ students were developed. Finally, semi-structured interviews with 12 professors and 6 persons responsible of equality offices were performed. The findings from Uni4Freedom demonstrate the presence of violence and discrimination against the LGBTQI+ community at HEIs. Quantitative findings show that up to 61% of students have suffered or known a form of violence on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Some statements provided by students in the qualitative fieldwork corroborates showing discriminatory and pathologizing statements such as "you have an illness, "you should go to the psychiatrist". In contrast, successful strategies to combat these attacks have also been noticed.

COVID-19 Control Measures and Gender-Based Violence: Understanding the Linkages and Vulnerabilities for Migrant and Refugee Women and Girls in Italy

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Background

Efforts to situate gender-based violence (GBV) protections within global responses to the COVID-19 pandemic remain inadequate. Using Italy as a case study and drawing on the syndemic framework, this research highlights the intersecting COVID-19 and GBV vulnerabilities migrant and refugee women/girls face. This study assesses how COVID-19 and public health containment measures have affected migrant and refugee women and girls' perceived safety, GBV risks, social networks, and psychosocial well-being, and the availability and accessibility of GBV information provision and response services. The study also identifies gaps in service provision and distills lessons learned to inform policy makers.

Methods

Mixed-methods data will be collected from key informants and migrant/refugee young women/girls ages 15 and older. Quantitative research activities include an online survey administered to women. Further, electronic polls will be disseminated to girls through UNICEF's U-Report platform. Qualitative research activities include 20-30 in-depth key informant interviews to be conducted with service providers, GBV hotline staff, and cultural mediators, and 4-5 focus group discussions with adolescent girls. Qualitative participants will be recruited through snowball sampling and discussions will be audio-recorded and transcribed in English. Verbal informed consent will be obtained from all participants. Descriptive analysis will be used to understand perceived safety and service utilization, concentrating on person, place, and time (three pandemic time frames: before, peak, multiple waves) variables. Grounded theory will be used to explore qualitative data.

Findings

Data collection is planned for November and December 2020 and results are forthcoming.

Discussion

Findings from this research can be used to inform the parallel development of lifesaving, sustainable, and inclusive GBV protections alongside future pandemic control measures. The presentation will also include relevant lessons learned for policy stakeholders working on issues of GBV prevention and response in the humanitarian sector.

Domestic Violence and COVID-19: Implications for Shelters' Policies and Practices

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Background and purpose of the study: This paper will present findings from a recent study that investigated the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on abused women's experiences and on shelters' policies and practices. This study, which was funded by the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, was conducted in partnership with AGIR Outaouais, a multi-agency forum. This paper will focus on the implications for policies and practices in domestic violence shelters. **Methods:** This study was conducted in the Outaouais area, located in the Province of Quebec, Canada. Qualitative data were collected from all 7 domestic violence shelters in this area, using a web-based questionnaire. The questionnaire was completed by the shelters' directors or coordinators in collaboration with the other workers. Thematic content analysis was conducted using NVivo. **Findings:** The research findings reveal that the COVID-19 pandemic has created significant challenges for domestic violence shelters in the area, as they have had to ensure women's and children's safety while limiting the spread of the virus. In this context, they have had to adapt their policies and practices, and it has sometimes been difficult to maintain their feminist approach. Nonetheless, shelters in this area have been creative and have developed multiple strategies to face these challenges and to ensure women's and children's access to their services. **Conclusions and implications:** The research findings contribute to our understanding of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and highlight the essential role that domestic violence shelters have played to ensure women's and children's safety at a time where they are particularly vulnerable. Recommendations for domestic violence shelters, community partners and policy-makers will also be presented.

Intimate partner violence in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic: Viewpoints from practitioners and program managers working with male perpetrators in Quebec

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Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, many practitioners and researchers have raised concerns about increased risks of intimate partner violence (IPV). Indeed, studies on natural disasters show a rise of IPV for women when they occur. However, these studies focus mainly on women's experiences and women's organizations. Little is known about the organizations working with male perpetrators who are also at the forefront in the efforts to counter IPV. In Quebec, since the outbreak of COVID-19, these organizations had to adapt their practices to continue their work with perpetrators and consequently ensure victims' safety. This research aims to document how practitioners and their organizations adjust to the pandemic context and the violence they observe in those circumstances. It is conducted with à coeur d'homme, the provincial network of batterer intervention programs. Online questionnaires were filled by 21 program managers and 51 practitioners, and 20 semi-structured interviews were conducted with practitioners. This presentation will outline how the participants perceived the risks of violence during the pandemic, especially with regards to the quarantines, stay-at-home orders and other social distancing measures that were imposed by health authorities. Some findings about practice adaptations, such as online interventions, will also be presented. Implications for batterer intervention programs will be discussed.

Lessons Learned from Researching an Anti-Human Trafficking Program During COVID-19

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Background: Human trafficking (HT) is a global epidemic and a violation of human rights. Although increased attention to HT has led to a growing number of service programs for HT survivors, few have been evaluated. To address this gap, a study was initiated in 2020 to conduct an evaluability assessment of an anti-HT program in a metropolitan area in North America. The study team was comprised of university-based researchers, anti-trafficking program leaders, and leaders of the organization in which the program was based. Beginning in March 2020, the study's progress was threatened due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To navigate the difficulties of conducting in-person research during COVID-19, the practitioner-researcher team implemented novel strategies to shift to remote research approaches.

Methods: Guided by reviews of best practices for conducting research using technology, the team adapted the original study protocol to adhere to social distancing policies. While documenting lessons learned throughout all data collection efforts, the team successfully carried out the following activities for the mixed-methods evaluability assessment: (a) a review of program documents, (b) observation of program activities, (c) focus groups with program stakeholders, (d) interviews with survivors, and (e) an examination of extant program data.

Findings: An overarching lesson learned from pivoting to virtual methods was the importance of (a) a priori delineation of processes and (b) clear, intentional communication with participants. In addition, specific lessons learned focused on team collaboration, recruitment and data collection, and participant engagement and acknowledgments.

Conclusions: Although the overall study remains ongoing, the success of the activities to-date, even in the wake of COVID-19, suggests that future research with HT survivors can be conducted remotely if necessary. Moreover, remote data collection may be particularly beneficial for mitigating barriers to research participation, as well as addressing the challenges of collecting data from service providers and survivors.

Unwanted Sexual Experiences and its Impacts among University Students in Northern Ireland

Reynolds Megan¹, Anyadike-Danes Ngozi², Lagdon Susan², McBride Orla², Aventin Aine¹, Armour Cherie¹
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Background: Over the past few years, unwanted sexual experiences (USE) among intimate relationships at Higher Education Institutions (HEI) has become a major topic of conversation among student activists, researchers, media outlets and HEI, as they pose significant public health and safety risks for students. USE can have a range of negative impacts on both an individual's mental and physical health, and their academic performance. Most of the research on USE has and continues to be conducted in the United States of America. Whilst, research has been emerging from the United Kingdom and Ireland, it has primarily been conducted by Student Unions'; Hidden Marks (2010), Stand Together Report (2016), Say Something (2013) and The Sexual Experiences Survey (2020), respectively. However, this type of research is insufficient in addressing USE among intimate relationships and the impacts (mental health and substance abuse) of such among university students. Thus, the current paper presents findings of USE among intimate relationships and impacts of such on students in Northern Ireland (NI).

Methods: This paper was conducted in the context of a wider study examining the issue of USE and its impacts on NI students. However, the present analysis used data consisting of students from the two universities in NI to examine the association among USE among intimate relationships and its impacts.

Findings: Therefore, in this current paper, we will present our findings on prevalence rates of USE among intimate relationships among university students in NI. Furthermore, we will report how students are impacted (mental health and substance abuse) by a USE among intimate relationships.

Conclusions: We argue that these findings will provide context for future research, provide support to students, help in developing policies and prevention efforts.

“It’s a choice”: a qualitative analysis on how university students in Northern Ireland define sexual consent.

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Background: In 2019, 1 in 4 female undergraduate students attending American universities reported an unwanted sexual experience (or, non-consensual sexual experience); data across other western countries has found similar rates with some countries considering unwanted sexual experiences at university to be an epidemic. Understandably, research in this area has primarily focused on establishing prevalence rates and creating effective prevention programs; however, research on how university students define sexual consent is sorely lacking. Often, sexual consent is not defined by researchers and it is often assumed that students know what sexual consent is. Yet, research exploring student's attitudes to consent negotiations seems to indicate that some students believe consent is not always a necessity and that there are circumstances where consent can be assumed. This research was conducted in the context of a wider survey examining the prevalence of sexual victimization and related factors among university students in Northern Ireland (NI). The current study was undertaken to explore how university students define sexual consent and the association with stereotypical sexual consent attitudes and behaviours.

Methods: The present analysis involves data collected from an online survey distributed to NI university students. Participants completed demographic information and measures relating to sexual consent. Content and discourse analysis will examine the participants’ sexual consent definitions to identify consistent elements in sexual consent conceptualization. Demographic information will be used to highlight possible differences (e.g., gender, relationship status).

Findings: Data collection is currently still underway but preliminary findings indicate some awareness between participants on key components related to sexual consent; interestingly, participants were prone to using vague language in their definitions.

Conclusion: Upon completion of analysis, conclusions will be drawn considering the relationship between the university’s sexual consent policy and participants’ definitions. Implications for future research, development of educational prevention programs and limitations will be discussed.

Narratives about sexual perpetrators – how do young victims of sexual violence in intimate relationships describe their offender?

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In this paper we want to explore how young victims of sexual violence in intimate relations describe their perpetrator. The aim is to get a better understanding of perpetrator and the narratives that are available for the victim. The victims are here seen as informants, not only on their own experience, but also on what kind of person they have been in a relationship with. Through an analyzes of their narratives we get one piece of the puzzle in understanding perpetration of sexual violence. The data does not give a complete picture but makes an important contribution in what way victims understand and make sense of their own experience. We are particularly interested in the gendered dimensions of the narratives of the perpetrator, of masculinities and mental illness.

The paper will draw upon 18 in-depth interviews with victimized youths (17-23 years) in Sweden and 11 in-depth interviews with victimized youth in Norway. 25 of the participants were female youths who had been subjected to sexual violence within a heterosexual relationship, four were victimized within a same-sex relationship; three young men and one young woman.

Often the social and psychological explanation of what causes sexual violence are seen as incompatible, where on one hand there are feministic understandings of (hegemonic) masculinity, and on the other more individualistic psychological understandings of mental illness. The narratives about perpetration in our data indicate that the victims both have a social and psychological understanding of the perpetrator, and the victims understanding of the perpetrators mental problems and the mitigating of their own sexual subjectivity do link these explanations in complex ways.

An Exploration of Sexual Harassment among Irish Adolescents: Experience and Understanding

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There is a dearth of research relating to Irish adolescents' experiences of sexual harassment RNCI (2014). The aim of this research study is to explore and give voice to Irish adolescents' experiences and understanding of sexual harassment with their peer communities while giving consideration to the responses that may be required to address adolescent sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment, and its existence within a continuum of behaviours (Moffitt et al., 1993) is expanded upon as well as the contribution of social norms and gender inequality in the continuance of adolescent sexual harassment. Bronfenbrenner's (1979) ecological systems theory is utilized as a method to explore both the bi-directional and interconnected issues that contribute to adolescent sexual harassment at each level of their ecological system. The role parents, peer groups, school, bullying, social media are discussed along with the issues that exist within each of these systems.

Employing thematic analysis, the findings from this study are based upon utilizing mixed methods of data collection, comprising (n=599) quantitative questionnaires completed by adolescent participants in addition to a qualitative section comprised of (n=93) adolescent and (n=21) youth worker interviews. A combination of descriptive statistical and inferential analyses was used to analyse the quantitative data within this study. The study found that Irish adolescents are experiencing high levels of sexual harassment. Social norms and gender inequality are two major contributing factors, along with a lack of adequate RSE within educational settings. Additionally, there are few supports available to those who have experienced sexual harassment. Based on these findings, an ecological framework for understanding and responding to adolescent sexual harassment has been developed. It is intended that this framework can be employed by academics, policy makers and at a practice level to understand and implement strategies in response to the key issues outlined within this research study.

Coercive control and parental alienation in France

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In France, the concept of parental alienation appeared in the late nineties, in a context of disclosure of child sexual abuse. Defended by psychologists and propagated by fathers' rights groups, it has been frequently mentioned in political or media debates regarding parental separation and child custody. After being criticized for its lack of scientific evidence and the risks associated with its use towards children and women victims of violence in family courts, in 2018 the French Ministry of Justice decided to inform its magistrates about issues related to the use of this concept. Despite this guideline, evidence shows that it is still mentioned in civil proceedings.

Following an analysis of both the strategies employed by experts and fathers' rights groups to disseminate the concept of parental alienation and the jurisprudence in this area, we conducted interviews with 20 women from 2018 to 2021, who had been accused of parental alienation by fathers, relatives, lawyers, social workers or judges. The participants were recruited using social medias and web forums, and a content analysis of the interviews was performed.

We discovered that parental alienation was mentioned in a context of coercive control, not only child sexual abuse, and even when the concept was not explicitly used, its underlying ideas were still present.

Moreover, accusations of parental alienation did not automatically imply a change in custody arrangements, but it could nonetheless influence the decisions in favor of co-parenting with the violent father and the restoration of its control. Those outcomes are linked to a wider problem of identification of domestic violence, before and after separation, mainly psychoanalysis based, not identified as coercive control and psychologized.

Parental alienation is used as a strategy to conceal male violence, and a disciplinary technology. It reduces domestic violence to parental conflict, stigmatizes and pathologizes women and children.

Public Understanding of Coercive control in Northern Ireland

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Background: Coercive control has been cited as among one of the worst types of abuse to experience within an intimate relationship and is the most difficult type of abuse to initially recognise, as well as later evidence and report among victims (Lagdon, Armour & Stringer, 2015). The overarching aim of this study is to gather baseline and measurable data on public understanding (or lack thereof) of coercive control.

Method: The Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey is an annual general population survey for adults (18+ year olds) that addresses a range of different issues each year. Following stakeholder consultation, the research team designed a coercive control module which included different relationship scenarios followed by related questions. Scenarios included case examples of (1) obvious and (2) less obvious instances of control within intimate relationships. These were further adjusted to present the 'perpetrator' as either male or female. Half of the sample were presented with scenario 1 & 2 with a male perpetrator and the other half 1 & 2 but the perpetrator was female. Participants (Approx. n = 1300) completed the survey between October – Dec 2020 either online or via telephone interview following Covid-19 related guidance.

Findings: Final screened and cleaned data will be made available to the research team for analysis April 2021. Data analysis will include descriptive statistics, including overview of final included sample, as well as comparison across the spilt sample. Multiple regression will also be utilised to further explore relationships between variables of interest.

Conclusion: The Domestic Abuse and Family Proceedings Bill is in its final stages in NI making coercive and controlling behaviours an offence. It is important that such sanctions do not become tokenistic. If the public (including those at risk) do not recognise coercive control, they are unlikely to report.

Too much law or a legal system not fit for purpose? The case of coercive control in Ireland

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Criminalisation of coercive control in a number of European jurisdictions has been accompanied by a wealth of literature asking whether ‘more law’ is the right course of action to address this form of harm. Focusing on the Irish context, this paper explores whether the problematics surrounding coercive control’s criminalisation relate to an excess of law, or to a legal system that is unadapted to survivors’ needs.

First, this paper briefly introduces the concerns raised by skeptics of criminalisation in different jurisdictions (Walkate et al 2018, Tolmie 2018) and outlines the limits of the Irish offence under the Domestic Violence Act 2018, s.39. The second part addresses the problems raised in the literature, which relate to the criminal justice system more broadly (Schneider, 2000). In Ireland, these include but are not limited to, a generalised lack of gender and intersectional sensitive application of the law; a non-victim sensitive court process; and an uncoordinated response between civil and criminal systems, producing disconnected and lengthy proceedings (Women's Aid 2019).

Human rights norms, including the CEDAW and the Istanbul Conventions, to which Ireland is a State party, prescribe the obligation to protect women against domestic violence including coercive control. This obligation requires, inter alia, state provision of justiciable, accessible, affordable and non-discriminatory access to justice (CEDAW GR35). We suggest that an adequate implementation of Ireland’s obligations necessitates to challenge the aspects in the legal system that re-traumatise and re-victimise survivors. In doing so, we enumerate a list of proposals to reform the functioning of the Irish justice system, to ensure that the law can be consistently applied and interpreted according to a survivor-centric perspective. We conclude, returning to the initial question, by arguing that criminalisation of coercive control can only unreservedly serve survivors if accompanied by a broader system reform.

‘She told me how I should shave’ – A feminist perspective on male victims’ experiences of coercive control

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Coercive control was conceptualised by Stark (2007) as a way of looking at domestic abuse as a course of conduct offence. Central to this was how expectations about femininity and womanhood were used to ‘micro-regulate’ women’s everyday lives by their male partners. In the UK, the coercive control legislation is gender neutral. In this paper we explore what coercive control of male victims in (predominantly) heterosexual relationships looks like.

We observed anonymous calls and e-mails from 334 men to a UK helpline for men experiencing domestic abuse. We also conducted six interviews with helpline advisors. The research was conducted between June-September 2020, during the Covid-19 crisis.

A wide range of coercive and controlling behaviours were at the heart of many of the men’s experiences of domestic abuse. Gender norms played a major role in the abuse the men were subjected to, however this was typically based around claims that they were failing to live up to masculine expectations; that they were not a ‘real man’, were being ‘too emotional’, or were inadequately fulfilling a masculine breadwinner role. Men described being told what to wear, being prevented from having friends, being belittled, including being called racist names such as a ‘terrorist’, and even being told how they should shave. We extend Stark’s theory about the micro-regulation of women’s lives to argue that a gendered understanding of coercive control is also important when considering male victims of domestic abuse.

Typology of female offenders in intimate partnerships

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Background. Intimate partner violence (IPV) perpetrated by women is an infrequently discussed topic. Though not to neglect the fatal consequences of gender-based violence by men against women, the lack of knowledge about female perpetrators of intimate partner violence results in a lack of suitable prevention training.

Aim. This project seeks to explore female IPV in order to develop prevention and intervention training focused on women. By investigating both the premises and consequences of IPV and violent relationship dynamics, I aim to facilitate greater access to targeted support services for female perpetrators in partnerships.

Methods. I collected data from about sixty female IPV cases (2018 to 2021) in which women sought help for their violent behaviour at the Counsellor and Therapy Centre for women in Munich, Germany. The anonymized file records are qualitatively analysed based on forms, severity, and frequency of violence. The analysis also examines relationship dynamics, dynamics of violence, situational and social contexts, and specific biographical characteristics.

Findings. Having identified four types of female IPV, these categories can inform the development of new counselling practices and prevention training. Further, in cases opened for at least one year there are preliminary findings on the forms of progression. This includes that in cases of situational, one-sided, or minor to moderate violence by women, the male partner started at some point also to perpetrate violence against the woman.

Conclusion. Accordingly, to understand and prevent IPV, it is necessary to widen perspectives on female offenders. The cases examined show that female IPV is a pressing issue for women and their victims. These women often lack the words for describing violent behaviour, and they repeatedly have unprocessed trauma. Thus, to increase IPV prevention measures, we need to develop and retain a skilled workforce informed in addressing female perpetrated IPV.

Hard to Tell: Narrative Identity and Male Victims of Female Perpetrated Intimate Partner Abuse

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This oral paper presents research from the Hard to Tell study: a qualitative PhD study examining how male victims of female perpetrated intimate partner abuse (IPA) talk about their experiences.

This study started with two premises established within the field of Narrative Identity Theory: individuals are driven to validate and make sense of their experience through narrative and the act of narration (McAdams, 2018). And, the content and structure of autobiographical narratives can correlate with individual wellbeing (Adler et al., 2016).

Cultural expectations of male violence and female victimhood, combined with the almost contradistinctive relationship between 'victimhood' and 'masculinity', indicate male victims may face hurdles distinct to their gender when narrating and making sense of their experiences. Given the identified link between narration and wellbeing, this study sought to better understand how male victims incorporate their experiences within their life story and inform support for victims of domestic abuse.

Using in-depth narrative interview methods, 18 self-reporting male victims of female perpetrated IPA were invited to tell of their life so far. Subsequent enquiry sought elaboration on aspects of their story such as the extent of their abuse, engagement with both formal and informal support, official process, and wider discourse around domestic abuse and male victimhood. Analysis examined the structure and content of each narrative with focus on aspects of agency, coherence, detail, and cultural narratives.

This paper will discuss how participants drew on available culturally accepted narratives to recognise, make sense of, and communicate their experiences; how male victims positioned themselves in relation to feminism and the established discourse of patriarchy and abuse; and how participants reconciled potential conflict between traditional masculinity and victimhood.

Discussion will include implications for professionals for how we might better engage and support male victims to attain the narrative forms that correlate with positive wellbeing.

The Compass Programme: An evaluation of a recovery programme for male victims/survivors of domestic violence and abuse.

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The presentation provides a summary of The Compass Programme, designed specifically for men who have experienced domestic abuse, accompanied by findings of a recent evaluation based on a pilot delivery by Calan DVS across Mid and South West Wales.

The Compass Programme uses a strength-based approach to promote a man's resilience and wellbeing following self-acknowledgment of experiencing abuse.

The evaluation used a mixed method, multi-phase design. Methods used included telephone interviews (n=7), one focus group, and analysis of the 14-item Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS) tool WEMWBS tool (completed with n=24 men at two time-points).

Men had to have completed or were in the process of completing the Compass Programme. Professionals (employed within Calan DVS or an external agency), had to have delivered the programme, supported its development, or referred onto the programme.

Qualitative data was transcribed verbatim, anonymised and analysed using thematic analysis. IBM SPSS, version 26, was used to analyse WEMWBS scores, which indicated a positive change in mental wellbeing overtime.

Overall, the evaluation shows that the programme had a positive impact on programme participants. Evident within the qualitative data was the importance of the group setting and the 'safe space'. The opportunity for men to come together afforded feelings of reassurance 'that is wasn't just me'. Having validation of their abuse enabled them to talk about their experiences with other men. Findings have informed the development of The Compass Programme 2 and Navigator Package.

Irrespective of age, gender, race, sexuality or disability, domestic abuse is serious health and social care issue. In the UK, 757,000 men aged between 16-74 experienced domestic abuse in the previous year (ONS, 2020). Targeted, specialist support such as that offered by the Compass Programme is crucial to help ensure that abused men are provided the support they need to recover.

The Hesitated Victimhood ~ Narratives of Men Subjected to Heterosexual Partner Violence

Hansén Caroline¹

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This presentation draws on narratives from 18 men who experienced violence from their female counterparts. Their meaning-making, emotions and lived experiences of having been subjected to intimate partner violence, and what consequences this has for their self-perception and gender identity are themes investigated in the analyse. I will explore through looking at the interpretative repertoires used by the men to (re)construct masculinity in reference to victimhood and discuss the function of these. Due to the lack of societal recognition of male victims of this particular “atypical” violence, they might face severe challenges when trying to make sense and relate to their experiences, something that has consequences for their self-perception and self-presentation.

The study follows a narrative methodology in which the interviews facilitated the individuals’ exploration over his life-course, trajectories and meaning-making. The recruitment was made through strategic sampling, meaning that the men self-selectively contacted the researcher after receiving information from voluntary organisations specialised in IPV and specialised IPV-units within the social services, and secluded groups on social media.

The presentation will give an overview of the narratives focusing on the men’s self-perception as male victims of heterosexual IPV. Central themes from the interviews targeting male victims’ hesitation of perceiving themselves as victim concerning prevalent notions and discourses of victimhood and (hegemonic) masculinity.

Tentative results and reflections indicate that the men admit to having been subjected to degrading treatment, but have difficulties perceiving themselves as victims of heterosexual IPV.

Domestic violence and gender non-binary individuals: the double bind of affects and obligations

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In the paper, we present the results from a research, conducted in 2015–2019. The research focused on everyday life of individuals with non-binary gender and sexual identities, that is, on those who do not identify with socially dominant and well-known gender and instead identify with identities that transcend gender and sexual binary. The research questions focused on the meanings non-binary people attach to their identities, on their identity trajectories, their experiences of misrecognition – of being misrecognized within the binary framework of gender and sexuality due hetero- and cisnormativity –, and their (more rare) experiences of being recognised as non-binary individuals. The research method was in-depth semi-structured interviews, and at least two interviews were conducted with each of the participant (23). We focus on gender non-binary individuals' experiences of domestic violence within their family of origin. With the help of lesser-known Bourdieu's conceptual pair of "affective obligations" and "obliged affections" as discussed in *On the family as a realized category* and in *Pascalian meditations*, we analyze the narratives of four gender non-binary individuals that expose the affective pulls of familial relationship (love, care, responsibility etc.) despite practices of violence that are experienced by gender non-binary individuals from the family members. The narratives expose the conditionality of seemingly "unconditional" family support and love that lasts as long as an individual succeeds in fulfilling cisnormative and heteronormative social expectations. Yet, despite the unconditionality revealing itself as conditional, the affective obligations and obligatory affects that an individual (also) feels towards the family are not instantly suspended because of violence. Their narratives show that despite violence that they experienced, the affective obligations need time to be untangled and stepped away from, precisely because of the socially obligatory character of particular affects that one should feel towards their family.

Exploring Consensus For 4-11 Year Old Children Who Use Violent Strategies Towards Their Parents: Findings From an International Delphi Study of Specialist Practitioner and Expert Parent Views

Rutter Nikki¹

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This presentation will outline the findings of an international study exploring current levels of consensus among 'experts' about good practice in relation to children aged four - eleven who use violent, controlling, or abusive strategies towards their parents, commonly referred to as 'child to parent violence'.

Child to parent violence is a harmful pattern of behaviour used by some children to control, coerce or dominate their environment through their parents. There is no consensus of how to define it, making it a poorly understood phenomenon.

In this research, a three-stage Delphi procedure is used to survey the views of experts. These experts consisted of practitioners specializing in supporting families living with these behaviours, and parents of adult children who have lived with child to parent violence beginning when their child(ren) was four - eleven. The first stage of the questionnaire aims to understand the value based decisions and priorities of experts, allowing for open-ended, qualitative responses and the follow-up questionnaires allow participants to see how their responses compare to others, providing opportunity to defend, or alter their decisions.

The main findings for the purpose of this presentation will be how experts frame and conceptualize child-to-parent violence initiated by four - eleven year old children, thus establishing not only where they should sit on the framework of wider child to parent violence discourse, but also how front-line services should understand the phenomenon from a value-based decision making position.

The implications of this research is to identify how child to parent violence could be acknowledged and identified at an earlier age, thus providing appropriate support and intervention to families sooner than is currently available.

Children growing up with domestic abuse: insights from a national longitudinal study in Scotland

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***Background

Across UK jurisdictions, new legislation aims to extend the criminalization of domestic abuse to include coercive control. Our research uses longitudinal data to investigate the social stratification of domestic abuse experiences among mothers of young children, and the implications for children's wellbeing.

***Methods

We use nationally representative data from a Scottish longitudinal survey of mothers and young children (starting sample of N=5217, born in 2004-05). Babies were c.10 months old at the time of the first survey sweep, and 13y old at the most recent sweep.

***Findings

Fourteen percent of mothers report experiencing any type of domestic abuse and mothers living on the lowest incomes were far more likely to experience more types of abuse and to have experienced these more often. Mothers who were both younger and living on the lowest incomes were far more likely to have experienced abuse (c. 1 in 3). Where a mother had experienced domestic abuse, children were also far more likely to have been slapped or smacked by the parents. Children of mothers who had experienced abuse are more likely to manifest problematic internalising, externalising and prosocial behaviour. We explored a range of protective factors, and find that children with supportive friends, and those with a close relationship with their mother, as well as children of mothers who have a close relationship to their own families and whose mothers were not depressed, were all more likely to fare better in terms of social and emotional development.

***Conclusions

We discuss how some current UK policies on income benefits may 'trap' women in relationships with abusive partners, and we seek to engage the audience in a discussion of what policy measures are likely to be particularly useful in helping mothers of young children who are experiencing domestic abuse.

Quantitative Phase of Mixed Method Study - Evaluation of a Domestic Violence and Abuse Primary Care Referral Programme in the West Midlands (UK): A Focus on Health and Deprivation

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Background:

Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) is a Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) training and intervention programme for General Practitioners (GP) i.e. doctors. This is the first time health data from GP records was used to extract a health profile of DVA survivors referred to IRIS for support in West Midlands (WM).

Method:

This presentation focuses on the quantitative component of a larger mixed-method study. Our research provides an insight of the long-term health issues of DVA survivors further mapped against deprivation. The study was conducted over 2019-2021, during UK-lockdown due to COVID-19.

Data were collected from GP surgeries and IRIS support agencies across WM (6 cities). The data collected per patient comprised of variables; socio-demographic, prescriptions, consultations, mental health, health conditions, DVA suffered and support provided. Data were requested from 156 surgeries where 1798 patients referred to IRIS matched the study criteria.

Findings:

Due to COVID-19 priorities, 44 GP surgeries across WM responded with data collected from 294 patients. A profile of health conditions of survivors was derived from medical records and IRIS. A pre and post IRIS intervention analysis was conducted on presence of conditions followed by statistical analysis.

Conclusions:

Ethnicity across WM showed that majority of patients (55%) were of White British background and remainder constituted British South Asians and other ethnicities. The results indicated 77% of patients across WM live in the most deprived areas of England.

The pre/post analysis of health conditions showed impact on mental health of patients significantly dropped post-IRIS. Other health conditions also indicated improvement post-IRIS intervention.

Integrated Conclusion of Mixed-Method Study:

Women in the qualitative phase reported that IRIS impacted positively on their health and they perceived that such impacts will be long lasting. The quantitative results support the qualitative findings, showing a decline in multiple health conditions post-IRIS.

Family structure and marital violence among women in Ghana

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Background and purpose: This study examined relationships between family structure and intimate partner violence among women in Ghana. Specifically, we investigated differences in the IPV experiences of women in polygynous families compared to those in monogamous families. The mechanisms linking polygyny with IPV were equally explored. **Methods:** We used data collected from 2,289 ever-married Ghanaian women aged 18 years and above and applied random-effects logit models to examine differences in the IPV risks for women in both family structures. **Findings:** Results indicate that compared to those in monogamous families, a higher proportion of women in polygynous families were unemployed and had lower levels of education. They also had limited autonomy and held strong patriarchal values. Compared to women in monogamous families, those in polygynous families were significantly more likely to experience physical, sexual and emotional/psychological violence. The IPV risks of women in polygynous families was exacerbated by their lack of socio-economic empowerment, limited autonomy and strong belief in patriarchal norms. Net of these factors, polygynous women were still disadvantaged pointing to existing unobserved differences between these two family structures or differences in family dynamics with implications for IPV. **Conclusions:** We propose that policy makers provide educational and employment opportunities for women in general, while targeting polygynous women with specific interventions to improve their self-efficacy and autonomy.

Examining the Effect of IPV tolerance on the Mental Health of GBV Victims in Sub-Saharan Africa

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Background:

While current literature evidences a strong association between gender-based violence (GBV) exposure and mental health disturbance, findings remain inconclusive on the effect of attitudinal acceptance of violence on this dynamic. This study examined these interactions among adolescent girls in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Methods:

This analysis employed data from the Nigeria, Uganda and Malawi Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS) on girls and women aged 13 to 24. Mental health status, defined by the Kessler Screening Scale for Psychological Distress (K6), and suicide ideation served as outcome measures. Predictors of interest included intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual violence (SV) exposure, as well as IPV tolerance. Logistic and Ordinary-Least Squares regression analyses were used to predict outcomes, stratified by country. All observations were weighted to be representative of the population of 13-24-year-old females in each country and standard errors were adjusted for the complex sampling design.

Findings

Violence exposure was associated with decreased mental health and was predictive of suicide ideation. Among women who experienced IPV, exhibiting IPV tolerance was associated with improved mental health in Nigeria (B=2.86, 95% CI 0.76 to 4.96) and Malawi (B=4.38, 95% CI 0.95 to 7.81); IPV tolerance also correlated with improved mental health for SV survivors in Nigeria (B=1.57, 95% CI 0.26 to 2.89). IPV tolerance conferred lower odds of suicide ideation following IPV exposure (aOR=0.24, 95% CI 0.07 to 0.80) and SV exposure (aOR=0.34, 95% CI 0.12 to 0.95) in Nigeria.

Interpretation

The association for survivors between IPV tolerance and improved mental health suggests that attitudinal acceptance of IPV may be protective of mental health for GBV-exposed women. Further investigation on the role of IPV tolerance as a coping mechanism for GBV survivors is warranted. Findings also highlight a need for more critical evaluation of GBV programs' focus on decreasing IPV tolerance among women only.

Domestic violence in the UK Zimbabwean diaspora

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Political instability in Zimbabwe since the late 1990s has resulted in a swelling of Zimbabwean political asylum seekers in the UK. Living in a developed liberal democracy has challenged traditional intimate relationship norms which justified female subordination to patriarchy. This has left some men with feelings of anger and frustration which has led to violence against women. Method: A snowball sample of 30 interviews were conducted over a period of six months in 2019 with participants from across the UK (excl. Northern Ireland). Most of the respondents were middle-aged, and all had been living in the UK for at least one year. Results: We adopted a thematic approach to the analysis. Our analysis highlighted how enculturation tensions result in domestic violence, but also how women's spouses were resistant to change as it is perceived as a threat to their masculinity leading to conflicts and ultimately divorce.

Domestic violence and pregnancy in Ireland: women's routes to seeking help and safety

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This study explores the factors associated with the disclosure of domestic violence (DV) and subsequent positive service utilisation during and after pregnancy by women in Ireland. The PhD research study interviewed women who have direct personal experience of DV during pregnancy and who had sought help. This was in order to understand and identify supports and enablers, in addition to barriers and inhibitors, which enhance and allow for, or detract from, safety and help seeking by women. The research employed a qualitative framework underpinned by feminist and intersectional methodologies and approaches. Eighteen women were interviewed, either during pregnancy, or up to approximately five years post-pregnancy for the study. Migrant women comprised the majority of the research study sample. Four key informants were also interviewed for their comments and insights on the study sample composition and preliminary study themes. Thematic analysis of the data was used to identify common themes and to relate findings to the study Conceptual Framework. Women reported multiple and serious physical and mental health problems during and after their pregnancies which they related to living in an abusive relationship. A lack of screening for, and information on, DV in health-care settings was noted by the interviewees, with 14 women unable to recall any relevant information in the GP surgeries or maternity hospitals that they accessed. For the women interviewed, this lack of screening seemed to reinforce the stigma and shame that they felt, and that DV during pregnancy was a taboo and hidden issue in Ireland. Women self-referred in most cases to DV services, but time spent finding an appropriate service may have increased the risk women were exposed to in relation to DV.

Working in a shelter with adolescents aged 9–17 and children aged 5–8 and with their parents who have experienced domestic violence using the iRiSk -risk and safety method

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The iRiSk risk assessment method, developed and researched in Sweden for child welfare, is a structured survey and support method for when a child or an adolescent is impacted by domestic violence. The purpose of this study is to highlight what shelter workers in Finland think about the iRiSk method three months after for started to use it with clients, adults and children. In addition, the aim is to describe the iRiSk risk and safety interview method. The iRiSk method aims to develop and standardize violence-related work in shelters.

In the study, shelter workers assessed the iRiSk risk and safety interview method in writing. The research questions were: How the shelter workers assessed the iRiSk-method and how they experienced the dialog between client and worker when using iRiSk-method. Responses (N=16) were analysed using inductive content analysis. The results highlight the use and support of the iRiSk method as well as assessing how usable the method is. The positive effect of the method was perceived to be the way it puts the children and adolescents in the front and center. The structured method helped the shelter workers in their work with adult client (parent). The negative effect of the method was perceived to be the fact that shelters might already be using different, less structured and shorter methods for mapping out violence and for protection against violence. The results of this study showed that when using the iRiSk method enabled it to put the children in the front which should be one of the main focus in the shelters.

Can Women Shelters help reduce symptoms of PTSD and C-PTSD? Trajectories of PTSD Symptom Development Following Partner- and Family Related Violence.

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Background: Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a global public health problem with severe mental health consequences. To protect women, women's shelters should not only provide emergency safety from IPV exposure, but also prolonged support that empowers women to build a life free from violence. The present study aims to investigate individual symptom development in association with residency at a women's shelter.

Method: N = 150 women were included from four Danish women's shelters. The International Trauma Questionnaire (ITQ) was applied to test for Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and Complex-PTSD (C-PTSD) at four different timepoints. A paired sample t-test was used to test the mean symptom development, and a Latent Class Growth Analysis (LCGA) was applied to test for different classes of PTSD-trajectories. Logistic regression was applied to predict class membership.

Results: The prevalence of PTSD (31%) and C-PTSD (37.9%) was high at enrolment. Although t-tests suggested a significant decline in symptoms at follow-up, the LCGA revealed different classes of symptom development. The two-class model was found to be the best representation of data with low-symptom- and high-symptom profiles, respectively. Overall, the largest decline in symptoms occurred within the first three months of residency. Revictimization was high and was further found to predict class-membership. However, when included in a multiple regression only symptom severity predicted the high symptoms profile class.

Discussion: Psychological treatment focusing on PTSD and C-PTSD is important for the women's future well-being and safety. The appropriate length of residency should be considered from the perspective of symptom development and revictimization. Reports on revictimization was alarmingly high, which emphasizes a continuing need to protect women from psychological violence within the shelters. These findings should be replicated in larger samples before we can draw any conclusion.

Autonomous women's shelters in Germany - From a political countermovement to an economised institution

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I would like to introduce my bachelor's thesis from 2019 in the presentation. It investigates the question to what extent autonomous women's shelters in Germany can still live up to their critical, political and feminist principles under economised conditions. The main contents, theoretical thoughts and argumentation processes of the thesis, led from a feminist and critical social work angle, shall be introduced.

After briefly introducing the history and transformation of autonomous women's shelters in Germany, I will focus on how the economisation of all spheres of society, and thus also social work, increasingly shapes the work of women's shelters. Consequences such as lack of funds and lack of time are illustrated with a case example. I will propose that women's shelters changed from a political countermovement to an economised institution. Under these conditions the question arises whether autonomous women's shelters can still live up to their primary claims of transforming society by dissolving gender hierarchies and supporting women* on their way to a self-determined life. It seems that as a part of social work, and thus of the state welfare system, they cannot. To fully meet their claims (again), they would possibly have to develop (back) to an independent political countermovement. Since there were many reasons for women's shelters to become places of social work, and since a fundamental change of orientation seems unlikely, there is a need to discuss ways to get closer to the original aims under the current circumstances. The concept of "critical discourse consciousness" within the critical social work tradition is introduced, which I understand as an essential precondition for critical, political and feminist work of women's shelters.

From isolation to connection: The practices and promises of open domestic violence shelters

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Increased isolation of domestic violence (DV) survivors is a frequent, unintended consequence of systemic efforts to address DV and provide protection and support for survivors. Ultimately, this isolation often exacerbates further vulnerability to abuse and trauma. However, recent years have witnessed growing concern regarding two long-standing and rarely questioned emergency domestic violence (DV) shelter practices that may contribute to this isolation: (1) requiring strict confidentiality regarding shelter location; and (2) maintaining strict limitations on shelter who is allowed shelter access. In response, new forms of support are emerging, including open-access shelters. Breaking from the canonical rule of shelter confidentiality, these shelters do not attempt to maintain a secret location. Some go further, inviting into the shelter survivors' social network members and others in the community. Although these efforts have stirred up controversy, there is almost no research describing their policies and practices, or detailing how their leaders conceptualize this transformation.

We set out to address this gap through an interview study with 16 directors of open shelters across the United States, obtained through google and academic searches, expert interviews, and word-of-mouth. This presentation provides an overview and findings from the study, describing the opportunities and challenges of this ground-breaking approach, both for survivors and for the anti-DV movement. Data was analyzed using qualitative content analysis and revealed four major clusters: Open shelters (1) build on new conceptualizations of safety and survivor-centeredness; (2) represent a spectrum of practices regarding degree of location disclosure and openness to visitors; (3) create new challenges for advocates and administrators; (4) pave the way for improved safety, empowerment, access to supports, and relational connectedness. Each cluster will be discussed in relation to practice and research, and key implications will be highlighted.

Patterns in crimes, arrests and outcomes for coercive control in England and Wales

Brennan Iain¹

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In this paper, I will describe data on crimes, arrests and police outcomes relating to coercive control in England and Wales in the four years after the commencement of the Serious Crime Act (2015), which criminalised controlling or coercive behaviour. First, I will describe and integrate trends in these categories over time and highlight patterns between and within police forces in England and Wales. Second, I will present the results of three hypotheses: (1) That the rate of prosecution for coercive control will be lower than for other domestic abuse offences; (2) that the rate of cases being discontinued because victims withdraw support for police action/prosecution will be higher for coercive control than for other domestic abuse offences, and (3) that the rate of cases being discontinued due to evidential difficulties will be higher for coercive control than for other domestic abuse offences. In conclusion, I will frame these results within the broader question of whether the law and practice relating to the criminalisation of controlling or coercive behaviour in England and Wales are fit for purpose.

The use of 'chemical restraints' in the context of domestic abuse: widening our understanding of coercive control.

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Background and purpose of the study: The study is part of a larger research project, funded by the Oak Foundation, to provide a programme support on understanding and responding to coercive control. Building on previous research and data held by the Centre for Gender and Violence Research the study aimed to deepen understanding of the use of chemical restraints as part of the domestic violence perpetrator's abusive behaviours, and how to tackle this unresearched issue.

Methods: The study involved two key stages. In the first stage we conducted a review of the literature on the use of 'chemical restraints' within domestically abusive relationships alongside a detailed re-analysis of our existing research data e.g. the Justice, Inequality and GBV research (ES/M010090/1) . Stage two involved in-depth interviews with relevant NGOs and victims-survivors across the particular groups of victim-survivors identified in existing research (including women, gay men and victim-survivors with disabilities).

Findings: The existing gender-based violence research addressing the concept of 'chemical restraints' is extremely limited. Our research, however, suggests some perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence/abuse use substances, such as prescribed medication, as a type of chemical restraint to aid their abusive behaviour by making the victim-survivor more compliant or easier to control. Our findings provide new data and insight into lived experiences of the use of 'chemical restraint' by perpetrators in domestic abuse.

Conclusions and implications: This study provides a key opportunity to translate research into practice and policy, as the findings will inform briefings and training materials for professionals, so that staff from a range of sectors (police, legal, housing officers, staff in alcohol and drug misuse units, and those working with victims or perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse) may increase their skills in identifying and tackling the wide range of coercive control behaviours.

And they lived happily ever after? Outcomes for mother–child relationships after coercive control

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This presentation focuses on the question of what happens to mother–child relationships in the months and years after separation from perpetrators/fathers. To date there is a paucity of literature on the different paths that mother–child relationships take post domestic abuse, and how each path is experienced by mothers and children themselves. The research basis of this paper was a qualitative study with thirty participants from the UK, 15 mothers and 15 of their children (most aged 10–14) who had separated from domestic violence perpetrators an average of 5 years prior to their participation. Semi-structured interviews with these participants revealed four potential patterns. In the first of these patterns, termed ‘positive supportiveness, positive recoveries’, mother–child relationships had become close and happy, and few conflicts remained. In pattern 2, ‘high-stakes support, limited recoveries’, mothers and children were attempting to support each other but were being negatively affected by the impacts of perpetrators’ coercive control on mothers’ mental health. In pattern 3, ‘struggling relationships, struggling recoveries’, children and mothers were suffering from the strains and distance that perpetrators’ coercive control had caused in their mother–child relationships. Finally, pattern 4, ‘broken relationships, blocked recoveries’, described situations where mother–child relationships had been shattered by perpetrators’ coercive control. Comparing the patterns, what made pattern 1 distinctive was that the mothers and children experiencing it had been able to access the supports that they needed to recover. In the other patterns, to a greater or lesser extent, such supports had been either unavailable or insufficient to address the mothers’ and children’s needs. The paper therefore closes with recommendations to bolster these supports and make them more widely available.

Electronic monitoring of domestic violence offenders: The case from Norway

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In 2013, a law for strengthening a protection order with electronic monitoring of offenders came into force in Norway (The Penal Code, section 57). The courts can now sentence a convicted offender to wear an electronic device attached to an ankle bracelet, which will set off an alert if the person should enter a prohibited zone, typically the victim's local environment. The intention of the law is to improve the protection of domestic violence victims, and to shift the burden of electronic control from the victim to the perpetrator. This paper explores the use of electronic monitoring for victim protection in domestic violence cases in Norway, the extent to which the measure represents an actual strengthening of victims of domestic violence, or what may represent obstacles to the law becoming an effective measure. The paper will also discuss the reasons for the implementation of this measure in Norwegian law. A special focus is on how today's culture of crime control represents discursive and practical shifts, central among them is how heightened attention is given to victims' concerns and interests.

Trauma-informed primary healthcare and community mental healthcare: an evidence synthesis

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Background. Nearly half of patients accessing primary and community mental health services have experienced complex trauma, often from abuse in childhood or domestic violence. Trauma-informed (TI) care is a novel framework which requires changes at the organisation and systems levels to create environments and relationships with clinicians that promote recovery and prevent re-traumatisation among patients and staff. We aimed to summarise evidence on the effectiveness of TI primary and community mental healthcare.

Methods. We conducted a systematic review, analysis of UK policy documents and qualitative interviews with professional stakeholders with experience of developing or implementing TI healthcare. We synthesised the evidence and developed a prototype UK specific model of TI primary and community mental healthcare. An advisory group of trauma survivors and professionals advised throughout the study. **Findings.** We included 7 studies, 35 policy documents and 12 qualitative interviews. Although studies, policies, and individual stakeholders used varied definitions of TI healthcare in different contexts, the underpinning principles of safety, trust, survivor engagement, empowerment and gender equality were applied consistently. Each study developed TI framework tailored to the local context and specific needs of the patient population. Most studies measured staff outcomes, only two assessed patient outcomes, none reported organisation/system level outcomes. Studies found some improvement in service delivery, staff knowledge and skills and patient health outcomes. Despite limited evidence of the effectiveness of TI healthcare, it was strongly endorsed in local and national policies across the UK. Policy review and interviews confirmed lack of evidence base, varied operational definitions of TI healthcare, and piecemeal implementation across the UK.

Conclusions and implications. These findings will inform UK policy makers and grant proposal for a UK-specific model of TI primary care and community mental health. We need more robust evaluations of interventions on TI healthcare to inform policies and local implementation.

Recording & sharing DV information in healthcare: research and good practice recommendations

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Background

Domestic homicide reviews (DHRs) and other multi-agency reviews of death and harm frequently state that healthcare professionals have not adequately recorded and shared information related to domestic violence/abuse (DVA). Lack of sharing also impedes holistic care and forces victims/survivors to retell their story. This research aimed to produce recommendations to improve practice around recording and sharing in the UK National Health Service (NHS).

Methods

We focused mainly on practices in primary care, maternity, mental health, and emergency care. We reviewed and analysed national guidance for healthcare professionals on DVA and confidentiality more generally; DHRs; academic research about healthcare professionals' views and practices; and policies for electronic healthcare records. We also held discussions with key stakeholders. An expert advisory group with representation from across the healthcare sector, DVA service, and survivors produced the recommendations through a consensus-forming process.

Findings

We found that existing guidance is multitudinous, inconsistent, and ambiguous, with no mention of how coercive control affects consent around recording and sharing. Very little guidance addresses recording and sharing information about perpetrators. This is important: our analysis of DHRs showed that most cases of inadequate sharing within healthcare concerned information about perpetrators, not victims. Academic research showed that in primary and emergency care, DVA was under-recorded, and sharing between the two areas was dysfunctional. Electronic healthcare records hold promise for improving sharing but stakeholders felt they were not being used to their potential. Moreover, policies for their usage did not address the risks of sharing information too widely.

Conclusion

Based on this research, expert advisors produced a set of practical recommendations for good practice, intended to be a 'living document'. The recommendations synthesised commonalities, resolved ambiguities, and addressed the gaps from reviewed guidance. Future work should focus on encouraging learning between international health systems on recording and sharing practices.

Do healthcare professionals delivering emergency services have adequate knowledge and awareness to identify and support male domestic abuse victims?’

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This research demonstrated what influences the boundaries of reporting within the healthcare setting and how gender influences the experience of violence.

Introduction: Domestic abuse is a national problem, with many thousands seeking medical attention for physical injuries. Society has instilled the view of domestic abuse is a women issue, resulting in male victims feeling ashamed of their abuse. As society does not expect men to be victims, yet millions in the UK suffer. Barriers have been placed for male victims to limit their opportunities to report their abuse and are society placing boundaries for men to overcome, such as societies understanding.

Objective: Review male domestic abuse victim’s experiences when seeking medical attention and understanding if male victims are provided adequate support and encouraged to report.

Methods: An online questionnaire was created with 22 questions, asking participants of their experiences when seeking medical attention and requesting details on how healthcare professionals treated and supported them.

Results: 100 participants responded varied indicating, there is not a universal approach across the UK with many victims experiencing negativity resulting in them not seeking support whilst others were not providing any support services. Those who were provided support had attended medical services an average four times before being provided support, leaflets or advice.

Conclusion: Tackling domestic abuse required a gender-inclusive approach, to ensure male victims feel as empowered with additional training for healthcare professional recommended to ensure male victims seeking medical attention receive adequate care and reduce the number of missed opportunities for male victims.

Violence against Mothers and Intrafamily Witnessed Violence by a Pediatric Observatory

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The World Health Organization regards violence against children as one of the major public health problems: in high economic countries, mistreatment is a major cause of early childhood mortality. Witnessed violence is one of the forms in which violence against children occurs. It is a form of ill-treatment whose detection requires the preliminary recognition of direct intra-family violence. Having suffered a form of violence during childhood or adolescence is associated with an increased risk of developing psychological, social, behavioural and organic problems; scientific studies on the subject underline how exposure to such violence in children can increase the probability of falling back into unhealthy behaviour and have health problems in adulthood (including substance abuse and depression). Actively investigate the presence exposure to violence in childhood is considered the best practice by the American Academy of Pediatrics Bright Future Program and in compliance with the Istanbul Convention. Given that in recent decades the use of emergency medical services has increased exponentially for mental health problems or for physical symptoms of non-organic etiology concerning children, the Pediatric Emergency Department can represent a privileged observatory to intercept situations of violence, but also a possible location to start any interventions. In fact, a very large number of children enter it every year; in cases with more complex problems, the child, accompanied by the mother, requires hospitalization and/or Temporary/Intensive Short Observation; if the child is hospitalized, the chances of the mother remaining alone and being available to fill in the research questionnaires increase during the time of hospitalization, in compliance with the research guidelines on violence against women and children. The possibility of detecting exposure to witnessed violence and of classifying the diagnosis of the child's discharge as organic and non-organic allows to assess whether the prevalence is different in the two groups.

Characteristics of individuals accessing support from Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC) in England and early findings from the MESARCH cohort study

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Background and purpose

MESARCH follows the health and wellbeing over two years of survivors of rape, sexual assault and abuse who have accessed care at SARCs (medico-legal services) across England. We present analysis of SARC referral data to determine patterns of access, demographic characteristics, and predictors of help-seeking at SARC, and baseline characteristics of individuals who went on to join the cohort study.

Methods

Case-level anonymous data were collected from survivors (n=2211) aged 18+ who accessed 15 SARCs between 2019 and 2020. Measures included indicators of vulnerability, offence characteristics, relationship to perpetrator, and referral route. Multivariate analyses were employed to understand the relationship between demographic characteristics, vulnerability factors and determine predictors of help-seeking. Cohort participants were compared to SARC service users nationally.

Findings

Most survivors were white women, under 34 years old who had experienced rape and were referred to the SARC by police within seven days of the assault. The perpetrator was most often an acquaintance or stranger. Survivors over 45 and men were less likely to access the SARC, and when they did this was predominantly for historic offences perpetrated by family members. On referral, survivors reported a high level of vulnerability including mental health needs, self-harm, and ongoing domestic abuse. Early access to the SARC was predicted by referral route (police), offence type and context (rape, by a stranger), vulnerabilities (mental health, learning disability) and ongoing domestic abuse.

Conclusion/Implications

Our findings highlight the profile of sexual assault visible within SARCs across England and the factors which predict help-seeking. We discuss the implications of this alongside national data about sexual assault and consider gaps in support for groups underrepresented in this data.

Emerging Trends in Help-seeking for Domestic Violence and Abuse among Ethnic Minority Women in the UK: A Qualitative Study

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Background: Domestic abuse is a form of gender-based violence, affecting women globally. While existing evidence shows that there are similarities in the types of abuse women experience, there is also evidence highlighting the differences in how women disclose and seek help for the domestic abuse experience. In particular, it has been suggested that there are additional challenges ethnic minority women experience. In this study, ethnic minority women and immigrant women are used interchangeably.

Methods: Qualitative methodology was used in the study. Qualitative interviews were conducted with Nigerian women (n=16) and ethnic minority leaders (n=9). Thematic analysis technique was used for data analysis.

Result: identified themes from the data showed that ethnic minority women were like to seek help first from people within their ethnic minority groups. Two key themes are discussed: Understanding, Trust and Confidentiality; and, Mediation and Support. Study participants highlighted the importance of trust and confidentiality in the help-seeking practices of ethnic minority women. It was also identified from the data that, ethnic minority women's help-seeking practices from their ethnic groups were motivated by the decision to stop the abusive behaviour.

Discussion and Conclusion: Findings from the data showed that women find it easier to disclose to and seek help from leaders and members of their ethnic minority groups, including faith-based organisations. The findings from this study corroborate findings from studies among immigrant women in other countries with similar characteristics to the UK. It also highlights the need to actively engage with ethnic minority groups and faith-based organisations in developing programmes and policy initiatives for tackling domestic abuse against women, especially immigrant women.

Gender Roles and Patriarchy Define Older Women's Experiences Of Violence: A Qualitative Study

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Background:

None in Three (Ni3) is a transnational mixed-methods research project working towards preventing Gender-based Violence (GBV) by developing prosocial video games for schools.

During fieldwork older women's experiences highlighted the contextual nature of ageing being both a biological and a social construct as discussed by WHO (2007).

Method:

From a total sample of 89 participants for our qualitative study, this paper includes in-depth interviews of 10 women (ages 45-65) and 1 focus-group discussion with 8 men (ages above 50). Participants were drawn from a wide range of backgrounds to ensure plurality of perspectives. Data was transcribed and coded into themes for analysis using NVivo software.

Findings:

Implication of GBV normalisation by age

Gender bias is the result of acceptance of deep-seated stereotypical gender roles by both men and women. But violence and its normalisation has differing implications according to age and gender. In intergenerational family homes older women face violence and commit violence on younger women.

Old Age a function of Social roles

"Older women" as a category cannot be defined only through age; understanding women's social age can clarify the type of violence she faces. A life cycle view shows the intersectionality and multidimensionality of GBV.

Older women subject to neglect and emotional violence

Elderly women have been undermined throughout their life. Because they are either unlettered or uninformed, they are dependent for resources. Older women who live without family face loneliness and mental health issues.

Recommendations:

Support for Older Women

Need for informal support, knowledge of rights, knowledge of technology and social spaces for older women is important to address issues of loneliness, to be autonomous and to feel accepted. Providing safe living spaces for older women who have faced abuse or desertion from family.

Research and policy

Investing in evidence-based research that informs policy implementation.

Institutional response to domestic violence during COVID-19 epidemic in Slovenia

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Reports of the non-governmental organisations and the police in Slovenia show an increase in domestic violence by almost 15%, an increase in fatal criminal acts (such as attempted murder or femicide) against women by 50%. In contrast to these facts Centres of social work do not report on the increase what points to the problem of victim protection during the lock-down measures imposed by the state to limit the effects of the epidemic. Social services play an important role in victim protection as they have legal obligation support victims on their way out of violent relationship.

To understand obstacles in social services' mode of operation of epidemic, we conducted an on-line survey asking social workers to report on their work during the first wave. The questionnaire consisted of 18 questions, most of them closed and 3 of them opened for comments. The invitation for participation was send to 796 social workers and the valid response rate was 37% or 299 persons. We analysed data with SPSS.

Results show that 46% of staff members had restricted access to premises, just 48% had weakly or daily contact with users via telephone, personal contact was allowed just in extreme emergency situations for 77% of social workers. 20% of them had personal contact with clients despite restrictions. Respondents have insufficient knowledge on the use of ICT or were not provided with phones or computers. Approx. 40% did not have any information on the increase of violence against women or children due to restricted contacts.

We are concluding that the organisation of work in social services which was ignorant towards the needs of people in most vulnerable situations was one of the reasons for the escalation of violence, considering total lock-down and restrictions of contacts outside private households, what will be further discussed in presentation

Adult Family Homicide Perpetrators and the Continuum of Violence

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Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) in England and Wales are multi-agency reviews of service engagement from agencies who may have had contact with either the victim or perpetrator of a domestic homicide. This study focuses on 66 DHR documents that reviewed adult family homicide (AFH) cases. AFH cases include domestic homicides of non-intimate family members where the perpetrator or victim is over 16 years old. Recent research on AFH perpetrators focuses on the role of mental health. This study takes up the call by Holt (2017) to move away from mental health and examine continuums of violence within the family by looking at perpetrators' domestic violence and abuse (DVA) towards family and intimate partners, and extends it by including the use of violence outside of the family.

The DHR documents included in this study reviewed homicides that took place between 2011 and 2016. Variables were extracted and coded from 66 DHRS, capturing information on: history of violent behaviour; history of DVA towards intimates, the victim and other family members; and risk factors for DVA and DH. Nearly all perpetrators were men (n=60), with an average age of 33.0 (SD = 11.6).

The analysis centred on grouping perpetrators according to the number of areas of their lives characterised by violence; areas included: victim-perpetrator relationship; other family members; intimate partners; and other areas of life. The most frequent number of areas characterised by violence was two (28.8%), specifically violence in the victim-perpetrator relationship and other areas of life. The next most frequent number was three areas (25.8%), where perpetrators used violence toward the victim, intimates, and in other areas. These headline findings indicate more robust DVA risk assessments need to be developed that include all aspects of violence in perpetrators' lives.

“You don't notice it, it's like boiling water”: Identifying psychological abuse within intimate partner relationships and how it develops across a domestic homicide timeline

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Background and purpose

Despite evidence that non-violent coercive control is a predictor of intimate partner femicide (IPF), little research exists to guide practitioner judgement about risk when the context preceding homicide does not involve physical violence. Psychological abuse is a highly prevalent sub-set of non-violent coercive control and a key contributor to enabling high levels of control and entrapment. We aim to show how individual acts of psychological abuse build into an escalating pattern of non-violent coercive control over time, where the risk of IPF is more likely.

Methods

Using framework analysis, interviews from 12 survivors of non-violent coercive control within an intimate partner relationship were examined. The domestic homicide timeline (DHT) (Monckton-Smith, 2019) was used as an analytical framework to analyse and organise the data, with a focus on psychological abuse.

Findings

Our findings demonstrate that the DHT is an effective tool to highlight the dynamic nature of risk and how it can escalate in the absence of physical violence. We show the significant effect of psychological abuse on survivors' health and wellbeing and how this abuse is often sustained long past the point of separation. Survivors' expressions of suicidality demonstrate that survivors' psychological frame of mind should be considered as a key indicator of risk.

Conclusions and implications

Given the increasing number of domestic homicide cases in the UK, we hope our findings shape a narrative that can inform judgement about the risk associated with non-violent coercive control, permitting early identification of abuse prior to the onset of lethal violence. These findings provide a robust narrative to guide practitioners' judgements around risk in the absence of physical or sexual violence.

Domestic violence and "honor killings" in the North Caucasus

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The problem of domestic violence threatens the lives and health of women from the North Caucasus. There are widespread perceptions of the need to control women. The most extreme forms of control over women's sexuality are FGM and "honour killings". In our presentation, we will talk about the problem of "honor killings" in the North Caucasus.

In recent years, we have conducted several sociological studies in the region on the problem of domestic violence and "honor killings".

We investigated the origins of the problem, its prevalence, motives, methods of murder, the main characteristics of the victim and the perpetrator.

We will present a comprehensive analysis of the problem. Our research is based on the sociological study of the problem of "honor killings" using qualitative and quantitative methods. We will also look at the problem in retrospect, show its socio-cultural foundations, analyze judicial practice and identify the main prospects and ways to solve the problem in the North Caucasus.

Germany's deathly Misinterpretation of "I know that I know Nothing"

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Background

In the Federal Republic of Germany, violence against women is based on a structure that is anchored in history and thus deeply rooted in society. Gender equality was not recorded in the Basic Law until 1957. According to the official Police Crime Statistics (PKS), women are significantly more likely to be victims of violence or fatal violence committed by men than vice versa. The Federal Criminal Police Office has been collecting data on a gender-specific basis on violent crime since 2015, but without taking into account the investigation criteria relevant for targeted prevention, such as the history of violence by the perpetrators, the weapon used, etc.

Methods

Starting in January 2019, a database was set up by the Femicide Observation Center Germany (FOCG) which currently contains more than 70 individual criteria relating to the crimes. These are documented and scientifically evaluated on the one hand through daily media-research, and on the other hand through case-specific queries at the respective public prosecutor's offices and courts throughout Germany.

Findings

One of the most important study objectives is the identification of "red flags", which enable preventive sensitization and serve to produce an increasingly accurate risk assessment. The study demonstrated that in more than half of all femicides with a offender/victim sexual-based constellation there was an age difference of 5 years and more.

Summary

Without reliable data and an accompanying understanding of the nature and extent, cause and effect, it is impossible to achieve a sustainable reduction in violence against women, which increasingly culminates in femicide. In Germany, evidence-based data from a scientific research have been available for the first time since mid-November 2020, supplementing the rudimentary reality picture of the official and, to date, sole crime statistics with a number of relevant parameters, new insights and unknown Risk factors.

Girls at risk of FGM in the EU

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Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a severe form of violence against women, leaving deep physical and psychological scars on the lives of victims around the world. Ending the practice will require joint efforts that engage communities — both women and men — policymakers and civil society, to ensure prevention strategies and awareness-raising campaigns work. Since 2012, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) has conducted four studies on this topic, contributing to EU efforts to end FGM. This includes the provision of a risk estimation methodology; estimations of girls at risk of FGM for 12 EU Member States; and an analysis of the legal context for FGM and the attitudes of communities from countries where FGM is practised towards FGM within EU Member States. Four additional EU Member States have conducted their own estimations based on EIGE's methodology.

The main outcomes of the studies conducted are:

- Increased knowledge of recent developments in policy, legislation and research on the prevalence and risk of female genital mutilation in EU Member States;
- Better information for Member States on the potential numbers of girls at risk of female genital mutilation and of the effectiveness of measures to combat this harmful practice;
- Increased capacity of Member States to prevent female genital mutilation and protect girls at risk;
- Increased capacity of Member States to carry out independent and regular risk estimations using EIGE's methodology;
- Promoting exchange of experiences and cooperation between Member States to reduce the risk of female genital mutilation.

Understanding how many girls at risk live within the EU and which factors influence practicing communities to end FGM as a practice are crucial to eliminate FGM. Therefore, EIGE's studies, including the newest one conducted this year, will help to inform evidence-based policy making for the EU and its MSs.

Young women's recoveries after domestic abuse in childhood

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Existing research tends to use a narrow lens to look at child to adult trajectories following domestic abuse in childhood and there is a dominant focus on resilience and 'damage'. This study explored young adult women's stories of their transitions to adulthood after domestic abuse in childhood.

Qualitative narrative interviews were conducted with ten young adult women in the UK who had experienced domestic abuse in childhood. A feminist voice-centred narrative analysis was used. Voice poems were constructed as part of the analysis, which aided in identifying and 'staying with' the contradictory, fluid and sometimes changing voices of participants.

This presentation focuses on young women's recovery stories. The notion of 'recovery' is pluralised in order to acknowledge that young women told many recovery stories, sometimes in ways that transgressed what we might typically assume recovery to mean. Recovery was not always articulated as linear or 'neat'. Rather, recoveries were told from several voices, and could be understood as an on-going and fluctuating process. Further, recoveries after domestic abuse can be considered as both individual, as well as shaped by social and political structures that make some stories more speakable than others.

This paper concludes that there are many recovery stories after domestic abuse in childhood, but there are some versions of recovery that carry more power than others. There are some recovery stories that are more speakable, that others are more willing to hear. We need a broader definition of recovery that accounts for fluidity and change during the lifespan. We also need domestic abuse policies and practices that recognise people's relational and social contexts. This paper invites researchers and practitioners to consider how they work with ambiguities and tensions, and how they listen to, and work with human experience that is multiple and not always linear.

TooIntoYou? Responding to the experience of Intimate relationship abuse among young people

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Women's Aid Ireland will present the key findings of it's TooIntoYou report and the work which has further evolved from the findings. This report was developed following a nationally representative survey in 2020 of young adults (18 - 25) which reveals the prevalence in Ireland of Intimate relationships abuse. This study, the first of it's kind in recent years, also sought retroactive information to gauge levels of abuse among the under 18's, and employed focus groups to explore thematic issues for young people to help inform frontline service providers making connections and offering meaningful support to young people suffering intimate relationship abuse. A particular focus of the research was the use of digital technology to abuse, including image based abuse among young people.

The findings of the report are stark but also incisive as they examine inhibitors to identifying a relationship as abusive, barriers to seeking support and language that resonates better with younger people than terms like 'domestic violence'.

The findings of the report were further used to update and improve Women's Aid TooIntoYou website resources for 18-25s, and to develop relevant awareness materials and the project has been expanded during 2021 by Women's Aid to build strategic alliances and public messaging, and; to increase contacts from young people experiencing abuse.

This presentation will synthesize the key information and learning from both the report, the awareness campaigns and Women's Aid Ireland's direct contacts with younger people suffering abuse. The objective is to share this learning and assist any practitioner by increasing their awareness of the issue of intimate relationship abuse, it's impacts and good practice responses to assist those young people impacted, while also encouraging positive bystander interventions.

Report link here:

https://www.womensaid.ie/assets/files/pdf/one_in_five_women_report_womens_aid_2020.pdf

My Story Matters: Understanding young people's perceptions of abuse in their romantic relationships

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Background and purpose

Through this project we aimed to better understand how young people (aged 13-18) in the UK considered, discussed, and responded to harmful behaviour within their romantic relationships. We also aimed to understand how young people might better engage with support, and who they were likely to disclose worries and issues to. We then used this understanding to answer the following design challenge: How might we use technology to enable teenagers to recognise that they or their friend are in an abusive relationship?

Summary

Authenticity was essential, and we were determined to work through best practices around co-production. There are many benefits to involving young people in research, not just to the project, but also to the young people themselves.

We conducted interviews with 20 young people and 38 participated in focus groups held across the country. Six of these and 12 additional young people formed our steering group. We also ran an online survey, reaching nearly 500 young people.

The steering group directed the design, language and creativity of the project. From the outset representing their own, and their peer's experiences; drawing on their knowledge to inform the discovery phase and take a leading role through co-creation during the development phase and beyond.

Conclusions and implications

By utilising meaningful and creative engagement with young people, we were able to create a platform that reached in to young people's spaces; empowering them to draw a line through toxic behaviour and giving them the knowledge on how to reach out for support for themselves or someone they care about. Steering group feedback indicated positive benefits: it was a "confidence booster", and a "great opportunity to learn new skills." 90% of surveyed platform users said it made a difference knowing young people played a central role in platform design.

Factors associated with perception of marital rape in India

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Background and purpose of the study: Most sexual violence occurs in a marriage in India, but marital rape remains unacknowledged by the legal system (Raj & MacDougal, 2014). While 10-14% of every married or cohabitating women have been raped at least once, victims are often blamed more than perpetrators (Monson et al., 2000). Female promiscuity (Idsis, & Edoute, 2017) or level of resistance (Black & McCloskey, 2013) play an important role in perception of marital rape.

Methods: Researchers created 9 standardized marital rape scenario vignettes (3x3) to study the impact of 'perpetrator justification' (no justification, deprivation, jealousy) and 'victim resistance' (passive, verbal, verbal & physical) on Rape-Supportive Attribution (Monson et al., 2000), Sex-Role Stereotypical Victim Blame Attributions (Monson et al., 2000), and Perceived Seriousness of Violence Measure (Yamawaki et al., 2009). Participants responded to an attention test after reading one vignette each.

Ongoing online data collection will be completed by 31st March 2021. 578 citizens and residents of India filled out the survey in English. Data set after cleaning includes the following: N = 488, Mean_age = 26.5; SD_age = 9.7, Males = 147, Females, = 336, Other = 5).

Findings: Three 3x3 Factorial ANOVAs were not significant. Mean scores suggest that people in India are most likely recognize marital rape when the perpetrator acts out of jealousy and the victim shows silent/passive resistance. Victim blaming is the highest when perpetrator lacks clear justification and victim remains passive. Finally, perceived violence measure is the highest when perpetrator acts out of jealousy and victim resists verbally.

Conclusions and implications: Context of rape scenarios play an important role in how the public and perhaps the judicial system views marital rape. Analysis with full dataset will increase power of the study and shed light on the public's understanding of marital rape in India.

To have and to hold: marital rape perception in Russian women

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Background and purpose of the study: Legally marital rape is not acknowledged in Russia. While generally men perceive it as less severe, little is known about factors that influence victim-blaming and perpetrator support amongst women, who despite belonging to the target group of gender discrimination, often endorse sexist beliefs too (Barreto & Ellemers, 2005; Greenwald, & McGhee, 2001). Therefore, we investigate marital rape perceptions of Russian women, in context of 'perpetrator justification' and 'victim resistance'.

Methods: Data was collected online (N = 3566; Meanage = 28.20; SDage = 7.82). Researchers created 9 standardized marital rape scenario vignettes (3x3) manipulating perpetrator justification (no justification, deprivation, jealousy) and victim resistance (passive, verbal, verbal & physical).

After reading one vignette and responding to an attention test, participant was presented with: Rape-Supportive Attribution Scale (Monson et al., 2000), Sex-Role Stereotypical Victim Blame Attributions Scale (Monson et al., 2000), and Perceived Seriousness of Violence Measure (Yamawaki et al., 2009).

Findings: Three 3x3 Factorial ANOVA were administered. We found significant main effects of justification $F(2, 3520) = 5.85, p = .003$ and resistance $F(2, 3520) = 53.45, p < .001$ on rape-support; and main effects of justification $F(2, 3519) = 13.17, p < .001$ and resistance $F(2, 3519) = 48.27, p < .001$ on victim-blaming. For justification, rape support was highest in no-justification condition, followed by sexual deprivation and jealousy condition. Victim was blamed most in sexual deprivation scenario, and least in jealousy scenario. Regarding resistance, rape support and victim blaming was highest in passive resistance condition, and lowest when the woman reacted using both verbal & physical resistance.

Conclusions and implications: It appears that context of rape scenarios played significant role, where it seems that sexual deprivation in marital relationships downplays rape severity, whereas male jealousy elicits more concerns towards victim and less rape support.

Discursive patterns in redefining rape

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This paper outlines discursive patterns in the redefinition of rape in different historical periods and examines the influence of social, legal and political perspectives. The study evaluates definitions of rape through a parallel cross-section and relationships: definition of the criminal act -> dictionary entry in the Dictionary of Standard Slovenian -> dictionary entry in the Dictionary of Legal Terminology. Each individual cross-section consists of sub-units with historical features that enabled the study of discursive patterns from World War II to the present. The following texts were included in the analysis: Criminal Code of 2008 (Criminal Code - KZ-1), 1995 (Criminal Code of the Republic of Slovenia - KZ), 1977 (Criminal Code of Socialist Republic of the Republic of Slovenia) and 1951 (Criminal Code - KZ 51), Dictionary of Legal Terminology (2018, 1999) and the Dictionary of Standard Slovenian (2014, 1970-1991). The identified discursive patterns are explained through a prism of social and political paradigms that potentially led to change, as well as through the perspective of modern approaches to criminal code change. Quantitative and qualitative research methods were used to identify discursive patterns that helped to understand the redefinition of rape through the research period, from historically prosecuted only on private prosecution in the year 1977 to also defined as intimate partner sexual violence in the year 1995, which can be framed in broader contexts as domestic violence, to the eventual establishment of an affirmative model (yes means yes) in the year 2021.

“I don’t know what’s wrong with him...” Marital Rape in the Pacific Islands

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Starting more than twenty years ago, the countries of the Pacific Island region have been ahead of many parts of the world in their efforts to measure the prevalence and patterns of intimate partner violence against women. The results have been confronting, with rates of violence higher than almost anywhere else in the world. The work has equipped this diverse region with a growing evidence base for cross-cultural comparison of complex and sensitive issues such as the patterns of sexual violence in marriage.

Based on a recently published chapter in *Sexual Violence in Intimacy: Implications for Research and Policy in Global Health* (edited by Torres and Yllo, 2021), this paper looks at gender-based violence and marital rape in 11 Pacific Island countries; each of these countries conducted a prevalence survey between 2000 and 2014 using the same methodology as the World Health Organization Multi-Country Study.

The analysis reveals unexpected and misunderstood patterns and drivers typically hidden behind regional, sub-regional and national averages. The comparisons consistently show that patterns of violence are strikingly different by cultural sub-region, but also by country and within countries when dis-aggregating by ethnic/cultural groups. Roughly, Melanesian women experience high levels of gendered violence, reflected by high levels of sexual violence and marital rape. In contrast, Polynesian women experience relatively low levels of sexual violence in a context of high levels of physical violence. In the Micronesian countries we see mixed patterns of violence and marital rape. We found that everywhere sexual violence amplifies the negative health outcomes associated with partner violence.

The findings on these widely different patterns are highly relevant for context-specific interventions, especially since sexual violence is generally hidden. We also make the case that how without qualitative insights from other disciplines and cross-cultural contextualization, quantitative data alone never tell the full story.

Working with women who use force - beyond the binary

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Background:

Legal, policy and welfare responses to gender-based violence have created a clear distinction between victims and perpetrators, as a way of countering the many ways in which men who use violence discredit and maintain control over their victims. However, in recent years it has become increasingly clear that a dichotomous victim/perpetrator distinction does not work in the best interests of those women who do not conform to the community's conception of how a victim behaves. Recent Australian research has highlighted the ways in which women use force do not fit the categories that have been developed to understand men's use of violence.

Methodology:

This research has included the piloting and evaluation of +SHIFT, one of the earliest Australian groupwork programs for women who use force in the context of domestic violence, provided by two non-government organisations in Victoria, Australia. This paper will focus on interviews with women who took part in this program, conducted immediately post-program and analysed using a qualitative thematic analysis methodology.

Findings:

The women interviewed all took responsibility for their actions unlike men who often blame others rather than themselves. Despite acknowledging the role their histories of violence and childhood trauma had played in the choices they had made, not all women saw themselves as victims.

Conclusions and Implications:

While professionals can listen with empathy, advocate and facilitate healing, women are experts in their own situation and can work to evaluate and develop safe and viable alternatives to their use of force. As we continue the work to prevent men's violence against women as the most prevalent form of domestic and family violence in our community, we must always be sensitive to the nuances of experience in the lives of those using force or violence, whoever they are.

Hidden forms of domestic violence: Parents as victims of children's violent behaviour

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Domestic violence has different forms, considering specific dynamics of the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim. One of its most hidden forms is the violence committed by juveniles and directed towards other family members. The complexity of this form of domestic violence comes from the fact that minors do not fit into the social pattern of abusers, as well as the parents do not fit a pattern of physically, psychologically and socially vulnerable victims.

The aim of this paper to present a part of researching findings regarding violence by children and young people against their parents. The survey was conducted using both quantitative and qualitative methods. A qualitative survey was conducted on a sample of 30 victims of domestic violence committed by juveniles. Respondents were identified by victimization survey on the sample of 250 persons from the general population. Data were collected through semistructured interviews. The interview questions explored aspects of the parents' experiences, ranging from broad questions such as "Can you tell me about your experience of abuse in everyday life?" to more specific questions such as "In what way have your experiences of abuse impacted you?" Using interpretative phenomenological analysis, 3 superordinate themes emerged (a) the tensions and (b) the ambiguities produced by living with the violence and abuse and (c) the ways that parents manage the harms caused by these tensions and ambiguities. Theoretical and practical implications are discussed, including consideration of how practitioners might support parents who are living with child-to-parent violence and abuse to establish healthy and sustainable coping strategies while repairing family relationships.

'It's ruined me being a mother': Mothers' Experience of Filial Abuse

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Background:

While there is an extensive body of international research into intimate partner violence and abuse, there has been very little research into adult family violence, and in particular abuse of parents by their adult children.

Both international and UK research into parent abuse have tended to focus exclusively on adolescent perpetrators, and abuse against parents almost always refers to adolescent-to-parent abuse. At the other end of the spectrum, elder abuse research has yielded insight into abuse of parents, with findings suggesting that adult children make up the biggest group of perpetrators. However, as its name suggests, the main concern of elder abuse is abuse of older people (65 or over), not parents per se.

The study set out to develop a better understanding of the issue of domestic abuse committed by adult children against their parents, in terms of its dynamics and factors which influence parents' help-seeking and access to support, within the domestic abuse framework in England and Wales.

Methods:

Targeted participants were parents having experienced or currently experiencing abusive behaviours from their children. A total of 11 parents participated and were all mothers. Interviews were informed by the life story method.

Results:

Inspired by narrative analysis, more specifically Dialogic/Performance Analysis (DPA), data analysis enabled an examination of participants' identities of motherhood and their experience of the maternal bond, severely tested by their children's abusive behaviours. The gendered aspects of filial abuse also express themselves in other ways, e.g. the silencing and blaming of mothers, violence against women and children perpetrated by abusive partners and fathers. Findings relating to mothers' help-seeking and what they deem as effective support are discussed, including implications for policy and practice. The study helps confirm the 'centrality of ambivalence when working with women who are being abused by their adult children' (Smith, 2020).

Victimized mothers' perceptions of institutional and professional responses following intimate partner violence

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Background and purpose of the study

Institutional responses to child exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV) are underdeveloped in Switzerland. To help guide best care practices, research needs to focus on the specific situations and needs of these children. Interviewing victimized mothers is an essential step since they are the institutions' main interlocutors regarding child protection.

This study seeks to provide an insight into the experiences of victimized mothers in the years following their medico-legal consultation at the Violence Medical Unit (VMU) of the Lausanne University Hospital regarding an IPV event. The main objective is to capture their perceptions of the adequacy of public institutions' and professionals' responses to IPV in relation to their needs as victimized mothers.

Methods

Data were collected through telephone interviews of 20 victimized mothers of children aged 0-17 who consulted the VMU regarding an IPV event between 2011 and 2014. A thematic content analysis was conducted on transcripts of the recordings.

Findings

Preliminary analyses show emerging themes such as the importance of feeling recognized as a victim and the possible reasons for and the negative consequences of not being heard; the possible disagreements between institutions and mothers on what is best for the children ; perpetrators' use of institutional processes to continue doing harm to their former partners; the load felt by mothers due to lengthy and complicated mandatory procedures and its consequences on their health and well-being and that of their children. Finally, coping strategies and resources of mothers and children following IPV will be identified.

Conclusions and implications

We expect our findings to point to possible levers and barriers linked to institutional and professional responses for victimized mothers and their children trying to return to a normalized situation following IPV. Recommendations to institutions, professionals and researchers will be formulated based on final results.

Domestic Violence Occurrence among Highly Educated Married Women: Case Study Analysis

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With the free educational policy of Sri Lanka, women were given access to educational opportunities. It takes a place in the rise of women in terms of access to educational opportunities when compared to the present gender. In Sri Lanka, women are more educated than men. This has been a growing trend and specifically depicted in higher education. Witnessed for larger proportionate of job opportunities in formal employment sector by women in Sri Lanka. Moreover they often tend to marry the partner who has been in a relationship for a long time or the partner find in the proposed marriage. Though it arranged or love affair, the rapid increase of intimate partner violence is common today. This study therefore intended to explore violence experienced by highly educated women in their marriage life. The study employed purposive sampling technique to identify the case studies from the Police Reports and applied in-depth interviews to explore the realities of women. The main findings derived from the study explained that often the job as well as the education of the male partner is degraded due to the employment and education of the female. Incidences of female high profile related misunderstandings and culturally moulded belief systems of men have led to crucial conflicts. The role conflict interpretation by male spouses and the exchange of the typical role has worsened the situation of the women. Their aftermath is physical and mental as well as sexual abuse. The married husband and family members are far behind reading the contemporary women and her roles. It was revealed that, divorce, legal and illegal separation and eventual loss of the life of partners had been the forms of ending the married life.

What about evolution of IPV in France between 2000 and 2015?

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Background

Since few decades, French policy makers, practitioners, and civil society began to implement public policies, legal and material tools to struggle against domestic violence, sexual violence, and to try to promote gender equality. During this period, two national surveys on gender based violence were carried out, in 2000 (Enveff) and in 2015 (Virage). National Statistics also provide data on physical and sexual violence, within an annual national crime survey (CVS).

What can be observed about the evolution of rates of IPV between early 2000s and 2015? Did they decline? Did the characteristics of women victims have changed? Do women speak more about violence they faced, than previous generations who were interviewed in 2000?

Methods

Thanks to the new survey which was conducted in France in 2015 on a large sample of people (15,000 women and 12,000 men) aged between 20 and 69 years old, we compare prevalence of IPV to those observed in 2000 (on a sample of 7000 women). We explore different forms of violence, in order to analyze if some have changed and if so, in what way.

Findings and conclusions

Our data show that some types of violence have declined but not the most serious ones. We can't speak about a real reduction of IPV. Data also show that some women are more exposed to IPV, and that prevalence of Ex-IPV is quite the same. This means that public policies have to reinforce all the tools, in order to struggle more efficiently and provide more security for women who want to separate from their partner or who are already separated. Women and children still need to be better protected.

A collective book was published in January 2021.

Research on domestic violence: ethical considerations

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Ethical issues undeniably permeate all research, and it is important that questions of ethical practice in research and the ethical foundations of research be addressed along a broad spectrum of issues that includes research processes, methods, and purposes, forms of interpretation, and issues related to the values and ethical choices of those who conduct the research. Research ethics introduces complexity into research processes. While the standards and ethical principles of research may (often) seem very simple, ethical dilemmas and controversies abound in research practice. Research ethics is about conducting research responsibly and in a morally defensible manner while adhering to relevant ethical principles.

Many researchers, including those in the field of so-called sensitive research (which includes domestic violence research), would certainly agree that the ethical lens needs to go beyond a legalistic and codified understanding of research ethics to address the socio-political embeddedness of ethical principles and how research can serve as a means of providing knowledge, improving social justice, realizing human rights, and mobilizing social equality and inclusion.

In this context, this presentation raises questions about research ethics and integrity and disusses some possible ethical considerations that may be relevant to domestic violence research, possibly more so than in other areas of research.

The mediating role of life engagement on general health outcomes among survivors of domestic abuse and general population: A comparison study.

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Successful recovery from trauma has been associated with resilience, whereas life engagement, commonly known as purpose in life, is considered one of the building blocks of resilience. Research indicates that purposeful life engagement is a significant predictor of sustained improved outcomes in both physical and mental health domains. Recent developments suggest that life engagement could facilitate underlying mechanisms of resilience by aiding automatic emotional regulation. Current study aims to explore the differences in life engagement among individuals who experienced domestic abuse compared to general population and examine the role of life engagement in the relationship between trauma and overall health outcomes.

The study utilised cross-sectional design and opportunity sampling with online data collection. The sample included 151 participants, aged between 18 and 62. All participants completed self-reported domestic abuse screening measure, a purpose in life test and general wellbeing measure. The screening measure identified 88 at risk cases (DA group) and 58 not at-risk cases (non-DA group). All data was analysed using quantitative approaches.

The results show statistically significant differences in life engagement and overall wellbeing between DA group and non-DA group, with the DA group reporting decreased life engagement and overall worse wellbeing outcomes. A mediation analysis with structural equation modelling framework indicated that the relationship between experience of domestic abuse and the overall health outcomes is mediated by the extent of life engagement. The results from all analysis were statistically significant.

The research findings highlight the potential role of life engagement in regulating overall health outcomes and significantly lower life engagement among individuals who experience domestic abuse. An innovative implementation of strategies which improve life engagement into trauma interventions could present an opportunity for increased recovery outcomes. However, further research is necessary to understand the implications of decreased life engagement among individuals who experienced domestic abuse trauma.

Victims support services during covid19 pandemic in Portugal

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On 18th March 2020, Portugal entered a state of emergency due to the covid-19 pandemic. Several governmental measures were approved, including compulsory home confinement. Overall, these confinement measures have worsened the risk of victims of domestic violence, regardless their gender, age and historical of violence.

Additionally, several policy measures were implemented to support victims of domestic violence, mainly regarding the services and the functioning of the National Network to Support Victims of Domestic Violence (NNSVDV).

This paper presents data collected for a research project funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, under the scope of the Gender Research Notice 4 COVID 19, developed at the Centro de Investigação e Estudos de Sociologia (Cies-Iscte), about the services provided to victims of domestic violence in the pandemic context, especially those of the NNSVDV. Based on two questionnaire surveys applied to these support services, the presentation focuses services, its staff and volunteers, providing a portrait of forms of action in the face of the pandemic and contributes to decision-making regarding future measures for strengthening the services provided. These surveys were replied by 124 services and 114 individuals (staff and volunteers).

Increased risk of violence against children in families during COVID-19

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The goal of the presentation is to discuss research findings about increased risk of violence against children in families during COVID-19 time. Mixed methods research including survey and qualitative interview was done in Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Spain, and Turkey in spring 2020. Descriptive statistics was applied for quantitative, thematic analysis – for qualitative data analysis.

Respondents reported that there were no dramatic changes in families' lives. However, one fifth of respondents told they have the intention of being violent with children during lockdown. Answering to open ended questions, they named typical situations which led to such feeling: reconciliation of work and family at isolation, children reluctance to learn, housekeeping/ daily routine, children's distance learning, spending too much time on line. There was specificity of culturally related parenting responses to uncertain situation which led to choosing different ways of disciplining children: turning off computer or TV, shouting at children, forcing them to do household chores, leaving alone in the room, physical punishments varied across countries. Almost half of parents found services/support they needed, however, one sixth would like to get bigger support. Pandemic situation brought bigger vulnerability to the families and children, however, support systems in the countries were not able to answer to new emerged needs on time. Timely and relevant support could prevent unfavourable parental behaviour and help them to cope with challenges.

The consequences of the covid pandemic to the domestic violence and difficulties for access services in calls to Nollalinja

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Background: The pandemic prevented people from leaving their homes and restricted their contacts with the outside world. Home may become a trap and further worsen the situation for those who experience domestic violence. In addition, access to the services may become more difficult or hindered due to restrictive actions.

Objective: This presentation looks at how the effects of corona pandemic on domestic violence and seeking help came up in phone calls to helpline Nollalinja.

Methods: The data is based on the anonymous service monitoring form used by the Nollalinja helpline consists of 6000 anonymous forms from the period between April and December in 2020. There are 160 forms that include information about the coronavirus. This information has been saved on the anonymous form from April in 2020. The data concerning the coronavirus is in textual form but the rest of the data is mainly quantitative. The qualitative data will be analysed using the content analysis method and the quantitative background information is utilised.

Findings: The results will look at how coronavirus pandemic have affected the domestic violence and special forms of the violence, like controlling. The mental and other consequences of corona-related violence are visible. Furthermore, results will look at difficulties in obtaining assistance due to restrictions on the availability of the services due to the coronavirus.

Discussion: The results show that it is important to understand and discuss coronavirus-related domestic violence, the consequences of the pandemic and domestic violence, and the consequences of difficulties in obtaining assistance more widely and to seek to promote assistance to those experiencing domestic violence during pandemics.

Domestic Abuse and COVID-19: Reflections on Data (England and Wales)

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Almost one in three women aged 16 to 59 will experience domestic abuse in her lifetime (Office for National Statistics 2019). However, this statistic pre-dates the onset of the coronavirus pandemic (hereafter COVID-19), and the social restrictions introduced to curb its spread.. This paper focuses on the first lockdown in England and Wales, i.e. those weeks between end of March and mid-May 2020. It reflects on the evidence on how for some COVID-19, and the UK Government's advice to 'Stay Home', increased the risk in relation to another life-threatening concern: domestic abuse. The paper explores data from different sources – official data, from the police, for example, published evidence from organizations supporting domestic abuse survivors as well as media reports. It illustrates the ways in which the first lockdown created a 'perfect storm' for women and children living with domestic abuse (Women's Aid, 2020). The paper also reflects on how domestic abuse services found themselves at the center of this 'perfect storm' as survivors faced escalating abuse alongside increasingly complex barriers to access vital support (Women's Aid 2020). Domestic abuse was brought into the spotlight in the first few weeks of the first lockdown. In time, as the focus shifts to 'circuit breaks', regional tier level restrictions, and the introduction of a vaccine, domestic abuse risks being pushed back behind closed doors again. To prevent this requires a concerted effort to continue to build an evidence base on domestic abuse during (and after) COVID-19.

‘The feeling of powerlessness still remains in the body’: Teacher encounters with pupils experiencing domestic violence

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This study offered teachers the opportunity to describe their challenges and needs when meeting pupils experiencing domestic violence (DV). Expectations for teachers when they encounter pupils experiencing DV are published in political, legal and educational documents. However, teachers still say they lack competence in this area, and schools continue to underreport adverse home conditions faced by pupils. Few studies have asked teachers themselves about the needs they face when they meet these pupils. Data were collected in group conversations with teachers and analyzed using thematic analysis method, with Bandura’s self-efficacy theory as a framework. Teachers reported encountering multiple children from violent home backgrounds, but multiple obstacles to their taking action were also exposed. These included teachers’ limited opportunities for competence development combined with a heavy workload and uncertainty about their role. Further, teachers struggled with a lack of support options, the confidentiality mandate, and insecurity about how to talk to pupils about sensitive issues. When concerned, teachers rarely sought information online. They tended to turn to trusted colleagues. The importance of contact with the school principal was underlined. Teachers’ need for professional support was strongly underlined. Six different support needs emerged from the data: professional guidance, education combined with practical training, information from other professions involved, time to follow up cases of concern, time for peer learning and discussion, and availability of information online. Involving teachers in research about their needs is important in order to tailor future policy and interventions to better support teachers in fulfilling their duties towards these pupils.

The “voices within” gender-based prevention programs: teachers and facilitators insights

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Primary prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) has been integrated into the Portuguese political agenda, to a large extent, as a consequence of the work that has been continuously developed by different social actors and that is thought out according to the action and reflection guidelines of the Istanbul Convention (Rosewater, 2004). For several decades, GBV and violence against women and girls has been recognized as a human rights issue and a public health concern (Magalhães, 2007; FRA, 2015), and that, therefore, understanding and identifying which strategies work best for the prevention of GBV at the primary level, particularly in the school context, is increasingly urgent.

Over the last decades, schools have been considered privileged settings for primary prevention intervention (Rosewater, 2004) and there has been a growing number of diverse programs implemented in different countries. However, their evaluation is scarce and their long-term impact has rarely been studied (Magalhães et al., 2017; Cahill et al., 2019).

Based on this theoretical nucleus the BO(U)NDS Project: Bonds, Boundaries and Violence, of the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences of the University of Oporto, funded by Foundation for Science and Technology, aims at understanding and evaluating, from a pedagogical perspective, which strategies effectively work in primary prevention of GBV in schools, as well as the long-term effects that these prevention strategies have on the lives of young people.

Through the analysis of 6 semi-structured interviews that focus on the experience of 2 teachers and 4 facilitators, it was possible to deepen the understanding about the difficulties and the possibilities to implement holistic, systematic, and effective school-based gender violence prevention programs. Bringing out, through content analysis, the main thoughts, lines of knowledge, and perceptions that these professionals/facilitators hold about these programs, their lines of action, and their impacts.

Qualitative Focus groups findings on gender-based violence in a school context

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Gender-based violence (GBV) is present in various everyday contexts and is highly prevalent in school settings. All forms of gender-based violence can be interconnected, and experiencing, perpetrating, or witnessing violence at any age present a risk factor. Also, it has been shown that violent experiences in childhood are connected with experiences later in life. The aim of the study was to gain insight into the competences of school professionals and students to tackle cases of GBV within the school context. Eight focus groups with teachers and other school professionals and students of these fields of study were conducted in Croatia and Finland with the same methodology. Topics discussed were related to recognition and experience with GBV in school and domestic context, strategies for help-seeking, and coping with cases of GBV. Results show that there is a considerable overlap of the students' and school professionals' reports. In general, they state that they often encounter GBV in various forms and describe the most common examples which include the violence in young people's intimate relationships. They feel that the sense of trust between a pupil and a teacher is an important factor for help-seeking behaviour and suggest various strategies for improvement of the relationships with pupils and their parents, as well as useful violence-reporting strategies. Furthermore, their own needs for educations and improvements in strategies for coping with GBV were specified.

The role of education in the process of addressing intimate partner and domestic violence among young people in Northern Ireland

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Purpose: This study aims to fill a significant gap in the literature by examining prevention and intervention strategies that endeavour to address domestic violence (DV) and intimate partner violence (IPV) among young people in education contexts. Part of the research is to investigate the engagement and key responsibilities of educational providers in the process of tackling the trauma resulting from violence experiences, and to explore existing multiagency links, policies and training as well as any gaps and obstacles providers and young people subjected to DV/IPV currently face.

Methods: To collect data, 13 qualitative interviews and 2 focus groups were conducted with providers in the education as well as community and youth work sector. Thematic analysis was used to examine the data.

Findings: The presentation will provide empirical evidence of ways in which education sector can better assist young people subjected to and/or at-risk of DV/IPV. There is a strong need for a provision geared towards young people's context-specific circumstances, a joined-up approach involving statutory and voluntary/community sectors, and a well-developed and consistent engagement in DV/IPV prevention and intervention, which must be aligned with characteristics typical for schools such as limited resources, staff shortage or time constraints.

Implications: The objective of this research was to develop a body of evidence capable of informing prevention and intervention strategies and policies in Northern Ireland and beyond. The study results will provide recommendations for policy, practice and research surrounding multilateral approaches, gaps in post-primary education and recognizing intersections for heterogeneous service provision and fit-for-purpose policy.

Keywords: Domestic violence, intimate partner violence, young people, education sector, prevention and intervention

A Process Evaluation of a Youth-led Sexual Violence Prevention Initiative

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One promising strategy to prevent sexual violence (SV) is to involve youth as leaders in developing prevention initiatives. However, few peer-led prevention initiatives have been evaluated; thus, it is particularly important to examine the implementation of such programs in process evaluations. This process evaluation is part of a community-based SV prevention initiative called Youth VIP. Aim 1 was to assess through qualitative interviews, youth perceptions of the impact of Youth VIP with youth who were highly involved, that is, either attended a retreat/event and/or were a Youth VIP intern. Nine youth who participated in various program events were randomly selected to be interviewed using a semi-structured interview guide. This guide solicited responses on positive and negative aspects of the initiative; perceived impact of Youth VIP on participants, other youth, and the larger community; and ideas for enhancing youth involvement in Youth VIP. Results from these interviews provided further insight into the strengths and challenges of Youth VIP. Moreover, interview responses point to benefits for youth development that extend beyond the content of the program. Major themes regarding Youth VIP impact noted that the program: 1) provided a safe social environment, 2) provided knowledge about SV prevention 3) fostered broader life skills, such as communication and collaboration, 4) increased self-efficacy for social action, and 5) promoted positive youth development, such as self-regard and self-confidence. The results indicate that having a strong presence of youth involved in the creation of SV prevention initiatives with opportunities for implementation of project ideas in the community were an important piece of program retention.

Paths of disclosure

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Disclosure is often a pre-requisite for children to get access to their rights after child abuse. To have their experiences validated and to get access to protection and rehabilitation the abuse must be known.

However, many children that are sexually do not disclose during childhood. The research question is: How do children and young people retrospectively describe disclosure of child sexual abuse in relation to their own agency?

The research group consisted of 13 females and one male, aged 15 to 29 years when the interviews were conducted. All participants had gone through a police investigation due to suspicions of sexual abuse before the age of 18. The respondents were interviewed individually. The interview design was based on a semi-structured interview method and were analysed using thematic analysis.

None of the participants told anyone about the abuse right away, instead they first remained silent, keeping their experiences to themselves. Respondents describe a growing sense of agency and how they gradually came to see that it was an option to share their experiences with someone despite the fear of negative consequences. Eventually, all of them told someone about the abuse, and when they met people they trusted, the sharing continued and developed into a dialogue. They continued to consider who to tell and what to tell them during and after the police investigation, sometimes holding back on information or even retreating back into silence.

Disclosure of child sexual abuse seems to be at gradual process over time for many individuals, continuing during childhood and into adulthood.

Overview of contraceptive interference experienced by young Canadian women aged 18 to 24

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Introduction.

Contraceptive interference (CI), defined as behaviors involving birth control sabotage, such as non-consensual condom removal or non-compliance with the withdrawal, impacts women's reproductive autonomy. CI is part of reproductive coercion (RC), a phenomenon that is increasingly documented as a specific form of intimate partner violence (IPV). This presentation aims to explore manifestations and characteristics of CI perpetrated by a male partner on women aged between 18 to 24.

Methods.

This research, conducted with reproductive health organizations, adopt a feminist lens. Data draws from an online survey conducted with 486 Canadian women, with a subsample of 120 women between the ages of 18 and 24. Descriptive and chi-square analyses were conducted using SPSS software.

Findings.

Preliminary results indicate the difficult negotiating contexts encountered by young women to prevent unwanted pregnancies: 26% report that a partner forced them to have sex without a condom, and 16% had a partner who removed the condom without their consent during sex. Nearly one-third of women report that the partner did not withdraw before ejaculation, even though this was the agreed contraceptive strategy. Women reporting CI were more likely to report that they also experienced other forms of RC (78.4%) than women not reporting CI (21.6%) ($\chi^2 = 18.83$; $p = .001$).

No significant difference is noted regarding the presence of IPV between women reporting IC and those who do not. However, women reporting RC were more likely to report having experienced IPV (80.6%) than women not reporting RC (61.2%) ($\chi^2 = 4.03$; $p = .05$). This suggests that, compared to RC, CI may occur in contexts other than IPV.

Conclusion.

Findings emphasized that IC and RC are important health and social issues. Future researches should focus on contexts of occurrence of CI and impacts on young women to inform clinical practice and guide educational initiatives.

‘Education. Education. Education’ - Young people talk about preventing violence against women in intimate partner relations in Ireland.

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Background

This paper focuses on young people’s (aged 18-24) understandings and perceptions of how intimate partner violence (IPV) can be prevented in Ireland, as one aspect of addressing the wider problem of violence against women. The data comes from the multi-country, European, GENDER-NET-funded project, PositivMasc, which aims to explore the discourses that young people in Ireland, Israel, Spain and Sweden use in their understandings of gender and violence against women. A key aim of the project is exploring how young men may be supported in combatting violence against women. As such, unique to the project aims is its explicit ‘centering’ of gender in relation to violence against women.

Methods

This paper draws upon data from 28 interviews with young people (12 young men and 16 young women). A semi-structured interview guide was deployed along with vignettes depicting different hypothetical scenarios of violence against women, including scenarios relating to intimate relationships. Furthermore, we specifically asked young people how violence against women can be prevented and what can be done to promote ‘anti-violence’ masculinities in combatting violence against women.

Findings and Conclusions

Young people’s understandings about preventing IPV were strongly rooted in the role that education can play, and drew significantly on the importance of incorporating three themes within the formal education system in Ireland: learning to recognise and name abuse within relationships; sexual consent; and education on gender and its relationship to intimate partner violence against women. We frame our findings with reference to the current redevelopment of the Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) curriculum in Ireland.

Procedural protection for victims of human trafficking. Spanish perspective

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The procedural protection of victims of human trafficking is structured mainly according to the vulnerability of the victim. In this sense, the Stand for the victim of crime (2015), transposing the European Directive on the matter, proclaims a whole series of rights and protective measures applicable to the victim of any crime, which for the vulnerable victim is completed with extra measures of great procedural depth. Of the set of measures proclaimed in the Stand, completed by the Criminal Procedure Law, those that focus on preventing secondary victimization and protecting the victim both in the investigation and prosecution phases stand out. Well, since the victim of trafficking is a vulnerable victim and, therefore, protected by an important set of measures, the truth is that the initial provisions do not seem to be working, so the protection of these victims is lacking. In this sense, there are two problems that must be considered: The difficulties of identifying these victims and the fact that their protection is made excessively dependent on their collaboration in the process. These problems will be addressed in the oral presentation.

The Strength of the Evidence on Characteristics and Factors Associated with Global Human Trafficking

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Background and purpose of the study: Human trafficking (HT) is a global social issue that intersects with domestic violence. To prevent and address HT, it is critical to determine the various factors across the social ecological model that enhance a person's risk of experiencing HT. Despite growing research on HT-related characteristics and factors, recent reviews have focused almost exclusively on those characteristics and factors associated with sex trafficking of minors. This systematic review extends prior reviews by using a social ecological approach to synthesize and appraise the extant global research on HT characteristics and factors.

Methods: Published peer-reviewed research examining characteristics and factors of HT were identified via a systematic search of 16 scholarly databases. Each study was screened for inclusion by two research team members. Articles were abstracted using a standardized form and the strength of identified characteristics/factors was assessed as insufficient, moderate, or strong based on a combination of criteria (e.g., design, analyses).

Findings: Across the 80 articles that met inclusion, we identified 125 characteristics/factors, most of which focused on sex trafficking among minors. The majority (n = 69) of characteristics/factors were operationalized at the individual level. Two of the individual-level characteristics/factors—sexual activity at a young age and substance use—demonstrated strong empirical support and 14 characteristics/factors demonstrated moderate empirical support. Of the 24 interpersonal-level characteristics/factors, none demonstrated strong empirical support and five demonstrated moderate empirical support. Of the six community-level characteristics/factors and the 23 societal-level characteristics/factors, none showed moderate or strong empirical support.

Conclusions and implications: To develop a comprehensive understanding of the patterns and predictors of global HT, additional research is needed on HT experienced by adults and labor trafficking in general. Moreover, future research is needed that examines community- and societal-level HT characteristics and factors to inform holistic prevention efforts.

The Full Picture: Seeing honour-related abuse and concerns before, during and after a forced marriage.

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Forced marriage is universally recognized as a breach of human rights and can occur in the absence of free, full and meaningful consent of either of the two parties. In this presentation, I highlight the process-based nature of forced marriage by drawing on lived experiences of survivors from Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities in the UK. Based on my ongoing doctoral research, biographical narrative interviews with nine survivors of forced marriage in the UK are analysed to position experiences of honour-related coercion and abuse before, during and after a forced marriage to generate a nuanced conceptual understanding. So-called 'honour' or izzat is a social order maintained, managed and preserved by use of male control over women's social and sexual conduct and plays a role in facilitating a forced marriage. Theoretically, I employ an integrated ecological framework and Stark's theory of coercive control (2007) to situate varying experiences of victims-survivors to a.) understand how honour operates at different levels (family, community and institutional) during different stages (before, during and after the forced marriage), b.) examine help-seeking behaviours amid honour concerns and c.) explore survivors' agency in relation to experiencing honour-based control in the context of forced marriage. This talk positions the under-appreciated characteristic of forced marriage: the cumulative power of control in the name of honour at different stages- affecting help seeking and agency.

Cui bono? Prevention by eliminating the Sources of Gender-Based Violence

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Background

In the Federal Republic of Germany, violence against women is based on a structure that is anchored in history and thus deeply rooted in society. Gender equality was not recorded in the Basic Law until 1957. Women in Germany still receive on average about 20% less salary than their male colleagues, and "Stealthling" -in contrast to Abortion- is still not a criminal offence in itself. According to the official Police Crime Statistics (PKS), women are still significantly more likely to be victims of violence committed by men than vice versa.

Methodology

Starting in January 2019, the Femicide Observation Center Germany (FOCG) succeeded in identifying missing societal correctives to the continuous spiral of violence against women in a newly initiated long-term study. These are the filtrate of daily, meticulous research in the media as well as within the responsible institutions and expert committees.

Results

In Germany, the FOCG data have been available since mid-November 2020 for the first time as evidence-based data that supplement the rudimentary reality picture of the PKS with a number of relevant parameters. Thus, in the meantime, it is possible to show how vocabulary and jurisdiction are intertwined, how training deficits and state dereliction of duty, how social approval and strategies that alone favor the perpetrators/killers are intertwined, all to the disadvantage of the girls and women affected.

Summary

Violence against girls and women, which, increasingly often culminating in femicide, has a long, sometimes decades-lasting history. In the Federal Republic of Germany, the FOCG data have been available since mid-November 2020 for the first time as evidence-based data that supplement the rudimentary reality picture of the PKS. This has led to a considerable gain in knowledge about the deeply interwoven connections that support violence against women in almost all areas of life in Germany.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Domestic Violence: An action research study on routine enquiry and practice responses

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The long-term impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are of increasing interest to researchers and practitioners, including the effectiveness of screening for ACEs to improve health and social outcomes. Despite a focus on implementing such practices, there has been little focus on ACEs experiences for women experiencing domestic violence, or consideration of practice responses around ACEs routine enquiry for domestic violence services. The Irish study discussed in this paper used an action research approach to implement ACEs routine enquiry within a domestic violence service for women accessing the service (n=60), while also utilising co-operative inquiry groups for practitioners within both the organisation (n=10) and those working in associated fields of infant mental health, child protection and welfare and community support (n=7). Of the 60 women who completed the ACEs routine enquiry in the study, over one-half (58 per cent) reported experiencing at least two ACEs in their childhood, including one-third of all respondents reporting experiencing four or more; service users reported significant levels of overlap between direct child maltreatment and adverse home environments. These findings offered early indications of both ACEs prevalence as well the types of ACEs that most define the experiences of the women presenting to the domestic violence service. This paper discusses the ways in which the co-operative inquiry groups used this information and other processes to enhance practitioner, organisational, and inter-agency understanding and service responses. The practitioners felt that this form of ACEs routine enquiry, while not an end in itself, was a useful tool to engage women in conversations about trauma and intergenerational patterns and a basis for developing trauma-informed interventions. We conclude with discussion about; resource implications; skills and supports for practitioners; and broader considerations of the risks of 'individualising' women's traumatic experiences.

Health care professionals' own experiences of violence and its relation to responding to domestic violence survivors: A qualitative study

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Background

There is a common understanding that domestic violence is democratic and may affect anyone. Thus, professionals working with clients affected by domestic violence may also have experienced violence themselves. To date, this subject has not received much attention. In this presentation, we focus on the experiences of violence of professionals themselves and its relation to responding to domestic violence survivors.

Methods

The present study is part of a larger research endeavor on medical and health care professionals' role in identifying and responding to clients who have experienced domestic violence in one region of Austria. After participating in a networking event, eleven midwives and eleven professionals working in the violence prevention sector were interviewed about their experiences with violence, their approach and response to clients with histories of violence. Participants were on average 42.59 years old and worked in their profession on average for 14.4 years. Twenty-one participants identified as woman and one as man. Interviews were audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim. Analysis of data was based on thematic analysis.

Findings

Most participants stated that they had experienced violence themselves. Experiences of violence included violence in childhood, in relationships and/or at the workplace. Participants perceived their experiences as minor and isolated incidents. These experiences, feelings of helplessness and reactions of their social environment were positively affecting their response to domestic violence survivors, such as heightened sensitivity to detect subtle hints pointing towards experiences with violence and increased understanding and empathy for survivors.

Conclusions and implications

Training medical and health care professionals in identifying and responding to clients who have experienced domestic violence needs to incorporate own experiences of violence. Being a survivor may serve as facilitator when responding to clients affected by violence. However, a positive impact requires having coped with these experiences.

The Other Side of the Story: Perpetrators in Change- Partnership research into DVA perpetrator interventions in UK, Greece, Italy, Cyprus, and Romania

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We will report on findings from the OSSPC project, which is funded by the EU Horizons fund 2020-2222. The aim of the OSSPC project is to prevent further domestic violence and change violent behavioural patterns by increasing the capacity of Frontline workers that will further teach perpetrators of domestic violence to adopt non-violent behaviour in interpersonal relationships and understand the impact of domestic violence on the them, family and community. OSSPC will achieve the abovementioned aims through the following activities: - Investigate, map, and comparatively analyse the current work with perpetrators in Cyprus, UK, Italy Greece, and Romania; estimate the scale of the problem; provide a needs assessment and suggest relevant perpetrator programme for professionals in the form of non-criminal justice intervention - Formulate policy recommendations on the needs and importance of developing perpetrator programmes in the form of noncriminal justice intervention; highlighting the need to undertake systemic change to embed new practice - Develop and deliver a joint capacity building programme targeting Frontline workers dealing with victims of domestic violence and increase their capacity and understanding of the dynamics of why perpetrators use violence and abuse. -Prepare regional strategies for an integrated response to incidents of domestic violence as a tool to foster multiagency responses to incidents of domestic violence -Develop Protocols of collaboration between governmental and community based agencies with a focus on collaborative and consistent service response that increases safety, reduces risks, and helps to prevent further assaults in the community. - Increase awareness and understanding among relevant policy makers, professionals and the general public of the importance of developing domestic violence perpetrator programs in the form of non-criminal justice intervention in order to reduce domestic violence.

Research outcomes from the Dutch SAFE eHealth intervention for women who experience(d) intimate partner violence and abuse.

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The SAFE research project started in 2018 at the Radboudumc, Gender in Primary and Transmural Care. During this project the online intervention (eHealth) www.safewomen.nl is developed to support women who experience(d) intimate partner violence and abuse (IPVA). While many women experience IPVA and efforts are made in prevention and intervention to help them, many still find it hard to seek help. The aim of this intervention is to provide more easily accessible help and to lead women to regular (offline) help faster. Our hypotheses is that using SAFE will help increase self-efficacy, awareness, and feeling supported, and decrease mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. The SAFE study consists of multiple quantitative and qualitative research components.

This presentation focuses on sharing the outcomes of the interview study, in which we have interviewed survivors and professionals (van Gelder et al., under review), and the (preliminary) outcomes of the randomized controlled trial (RCT is currently taking place), the process evaluation and open feasibility study, regarding the SAFE eHealth intervention. The study protocol has already been published: <https://bmcpublikehealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-020-08743-0>. With this presentation we want to provide knowledge and inspiration for everyone who works in the field of IPVA on the potential of online interventions in the IPVA context. eHealth can help to break down barriers in disclosing IPVA and help seeking, for example for feeling ashamed, being afraid of what might happen when the violence is disclosed, and not being able to physically go anywhere or call anyone.

The key learning from this presentation focuses on:

- What do women who experience IPVA need and want in terms of online help / eHealth?
- What is the place of eHealth in the IPVA context? (opportunities and obstacles)
- How effective is the SAFE intervention and how do women feel about using it?

The pandemic in the pandemic: how Women Specialized Services manage VAW and DV

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As President of Wave – Women against violence Europe, the network of more than 150 NGOs of 46 European countries, working in the field of violence against women and girls (VAWG) and DV, I can present Wave's members experience during this pandemic. I evidence the impact of the global pandemic of COVID-19 on women, particularly on the increased reporting of VAWG and DV in all forms, referring to the rich input from WAVE members who found themselves in new very challenging territory. My presentation can track the changes in the prevalence and types of GBV reported, the increased danger faced by woman not only due to the widespread confinement measures in place, but also due to the pressures imposed on state institutions – including the police, social services and the courts – challenging their ability to effectively respond to VAWG and DV. I can highlight the disproportionate impact of the crisis on women that are particularly vulnerable to the negative social and economic impact of the crisis. The increased demand for services and the need to administer essential services differently in order to comply with restrictions in movement and social distancing has affected women specialist services (WSS). The presentation can also show how increased demand for emergency shelter has brought to the fore the already precarious situation of women's refuges and shelter, with number of beds across Europe, falling woefully short of Istanbul Convention requirements. After the description of above effects of Covid I can evidence how WSS manage the challenge of providing adequate response, despite the critical need for increase financial support, reporting best and promising practices. Closing with Wave's policy statement there will be an indication to all stakeholders on how to prepare for the long-term consequences of the crisis and its implications for VAWG and DV.

The police response to domestic abuse during Covid-19

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The paper presents findings from a ESRC-funded research project on domestic abuse during the Covid-19 pandemic as it comes to police attention in England and Wales, and police officers perspectives on the challenges of responding to domestic abuse during the pandemic. The presentation has two parts. First, we present findings on the impact of lockdown on the volume and profile of domestic abuse based on large-scale data provided by seven English police forces. Second, we present findings from phone interviews with police officers of various ranks and roles. The interviews capture officer experiences and perspectives on responding to domestic abuse during lockdown, and how police forces have innovated and changed practice in order to adapt to the Covid-19 context.

Intimate partner violence against women during the COVID-19 lockdown: a study with anti-violence centers in Italy

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During the COVID-19 pandemic, many worried about an increase in intimate partner violence (IPV) and a worsening of victims' situations due to confinement, added to the fear of the virus and economic concerns. However, to date, almost no studies have investigated this situation. The aim of this observational study was to analyze IPV evolution during the lockdown with a sample of women accessing the services of 5 anti-violence centers (AVC) in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (North-East of Italy). Between June 3rd and September 30th 2020, 292 of the women who sought the services of an AVC completed a questionnaire (response rate of 77%): 238 women were exposed to violence by a male partner or ex-partner during the confinement and were included in the present study: 44% were cohabitating with the perpetrator and 56% were not cohabitating. AVC advocates performed structured interviews. Besides socio-demographic variables, questions included the 12 items on the types of partner violence (women and children) experienced before confinement and for each type, a question about whether violence increased/stayed the same/decreased during confinement. From these questions, a synthesis indicator of IPV modifications during the lockdown was constructed. Before confinement, cohabitating and non-cohabitating women reported high frequencies of violence. During the lockdown, two opposite patterns emerged: partner/ex-partner violence increased for a quarter of cohabitating women and decreased for more than half of non-cohabitating women. These trends were confirmed after adjustment for the relevant socio-demographic factors. Such results suggest the efficacy of physical distancing — imposed and strictly controlled by the State — in the prevention of IPV.

COVID and Domestic violence prevention policies in the Russian Federation

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The paper deals with prevention of domestic violence policies in the Russian Federation in the aftermath of the draft law on prevention of domestic violence introduced in the Federal Assembly in December 2019. This policy initiative resulted in wider public debate on the necessity of such legislation and policies which intensified after the introduction of lockdown and quarantine measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. Lockdown measures lead to the spike in DV incidents worldwide, including Russia. However, the governments were slow in developing intervention and prevention measures or even anticipating the consequences of lockdown for women. Yet, Russia exhibited a high level of mobilization and readiness to deal with DV by introducing a comprehensive intervention and prevention policies as early as March 31, 2020. The paper focuses on two sets of hypotheses: 1) that authoritarian regimes with developed emergency legislation function better under pressure notwithstanding their rhetoric (such as anti-Western discourse of protecting sovereignty) and ideology (such as traditional values) during regular times, which includes mechanisms to deal with all types of 'criminality', including the family; 2) resistance to the prevention of DV legislation, exhibited by the authorities before the lockdown (March 2020), is a political strategy 'to bait' the 'West' in bargaining for other issues. The paper includes three sections: 1) history of DV legislation and prevention policies; 2) public debate and draft law of december 2019; 3) DV prevention measures of March-December 2020 and their consequences for public policy and legislation after returning to 'normal'. The preliminary conclusion is that pandemic emergency prevention and intervention measures will continue to stay in place and will be a foundation for the future comprehensive DV prevention public policy despite the conservative resistance and rhetoric; from this point of view, pandemic proved to be a breakthrough for Russia.

Culturalization in domestic violence shelter work with Roma survivors

Mojskerc Natasa¹

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Domestic violence shelter work is supposed to contribute not only to the immediate safety of domestic violence and abuse survivors but also to their empowerment. However, the culturalizing working practices with racialized/ethnicized survivors can be disempowering. While experiencing that their needs are not being met, these shelter service users might leave the shelter early. Such an inflicted self-exclusion can have a devastating effect on their safety. The paper addresses the culturalizing working practices in Finnish domestic violence shelter work with Roma survivors.

The paper presents a part of the doctoral research of intersectional dynamics in domestic violence shelter work. Data was collected by participatory and autoethnographic observation in the Finnish domestic violence shelter, where the researcher works as a counsellor. The autoethnographic case study presents the counselling meeting, at which the worker culturalizes the Roma survivor, who in turn resists such treatment. Instead of participating in an empowering encountering, the shelter worker and the survivor find themselves in a non-dialogical dead-end, leaving the Roma survivor disempowered.

The feminist intersectional and autoethnographic analysis of the case suggests that while the worker constructs the Roma survivor as a weak victim of her inherently violent culture, the Roma faces the impossible choice between the affirmation of her own culture and the rejection of the specific experience of violence. While culturalizing the Roma survivor, the worker undermines her agency and devalues her cultural belonging, thus decreasing the possibilities for meeting her needs.

Results imply the need for critical examination of the culturalizing working practices in domestic violence shelters and the development of mechanisms to counter their disempowering effects. Improved shelter service experience for the racialized/ethnicized survivors might reduce the risks of their self-exclusion from domestic violence shelters.

Keywords: domestic violence shelter, culturalization, empowerment, Roma survivors

Do our victim assistance programs still respond to victims' needs: the case of shelter for victims of domestic violence within Association SOS Helpline

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Current COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light many underlying issues, intertwined with domestic violence. The crucial everyday aspects of life, such as employment, poverty, mental and physical health issues, coping and functioning skills, have worsened due to pandemic and have consequently affected the situation of the women and children, who endure the abuse in their homes.

Through the practice of assisting the victims, who reside in our shelter, we have faced many new challenges in the past year. The number of women, who sought to stay in the shelter, has slightly decreased despite statistic data showing the rise of all types of violence against women, particularly domestic abuse. One of the reasons may be strong messages communicated by the media and politics, that emphasized social isolation and staying at home as a prevention for spreading of coronavirus and generally diminished access to different services.

Women, who reside in the shelter, inevitably confront a variety of challenges, considering their privacy and compliance with shelter rules, which may result in conflict with other residents and not being able to fully benefit from the services, provided by the shelter staff. The number of women with complex life situations that expose many risk factors such as unemployment or low income, mental health issues, addiction, reduced life and parental skills due to experienced abuse, has increased in our shelter.

The main purpose of this presentation is to highlight the past year practice through Covid-19 lense and to start unveiling the emerging questions: after almost 25 years, since Association SOS Helpline established it's first shelter in November 1997, do our services still provide adequate response to victims' needs? Are safety, affordable stay and psychosocial support enough of a reason for women to decide to follow unpredictable path by leaving abusive relationship in times of great uncertainty?

Children's and Young People's Experiences in Domestic Violence Shelters

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Background and purpose of the study: This paper will present findings from a participative and qualitative study that investigated children's and young people's experiences and perspectives on domestic violence. This study, funded by the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, was conducted in Quebec and Ontario. This paper will focus on children's and young people's experiences with regards to their stay in domestic violence shelters. **Methods:** Qualitative data were collected from three focus groups and 46 individual interviews with children and young people aged between 6 and 18 years old. The 59 participants were recruited through domestic violence shelters, community organizations and child protection agencies. All 59 participants identified as francophone. Thematic content analysis was conducted using NVivo. **Findings:** The research findings reveal children's and young people's perspectives on their arrival at the shelters, shelter practices, and what it was like to live in a shelter. The research findings also highlight what children and young people like and dislike about their stay in a domestic violence shelter. An important theme that emerges through the interviews was the issue of rules and regulations in shelters. **Conclusions and implications:** The research findings provide a better understanding of children's and young people's experiences and perspectives on domestic violence. They could inform the provision and delivery of services for children and young people living with domestic violence. Recommendations for domestic violence shelters will also be presented.

Assessing Empowerment in Domestic Violence Shelters

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This research project seeks to assess women's safety-related empowerment in domestic violence shelters in the province of Québec (Canada), drawing upon the principles of feminist and participatory action research, and using a mixed-method.

The study is divided into two stages. The first stage of the study (2018-2020) sought to translate, adapt, pre-test and validate two tools: the Measure of Victim Empowerment Related to Safety (MOVERS; Goodman et al., 2015) and the Survivor-Defined Practice Scale (SDPS; Goodman et al., 2016), as well as an assessment design. These tools have been developed in partnership with shelters' workers and pre-tested/validated with 189 women seeking shelters' services. They will be used in the second stage of the research (2020-2024) to evaluate domestic violence shelters' practices.

The authors of the current presentation will present some preliminary findings, while discussing how the team, which includes three researchers, partners from two coalitions representing 89 women shelters, a statistician and two students worked closely together to build every step of the research project. They will also argue that despite some challenges, assessing empowerment in domestic violence shelters is relevant for the scientific community, for practitioners, and for abused women seeking services.

Comprehensive Sexuality Education: A Way Forward to Combat Violence among Adolescents and Youth

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Gender-based violence is one of the most widespread public health issues and is considered a human rights violation. A meticulous literature analysis showed that Comprehensive Sexuality Education has a great potential to engage in violence against women and girls. Comprehensive sexuality education is considered as a strategy focusing on a rights-based approach where curriculum-based, age-appropriate, culturally relevant, and scientifically accurate information on gender, sexuality, and sexual and reproductive health rights are provided to adolescents and youth. The literature analysis also found that cultural and social norms are critical in molding an individual's behavior including their attitude, perception, and use of violence. The inequalities in power hierarchies and privilege between men and women, boys and girls begin from the rigid gender norms and place men in a dominant position in comparison with women both in the public and private space. The harmful rigid norms facilitate men/boys to exert their power and privilege as a man to bring control in their relationships and thereby intruding the women's right on her own body. The recognized agreement in the sexual and reproductive health and rights area is that comprehensive sexuality education would promote adolescent boys' significant reflections on harmful masculinity. Engaging boys and young men would provide opportunities for them to analyze and reflect on the perspectives of harmful masculinity and to create a safe space to build open, intimate, consensual relationships with others. Hence this paper examines the scope of Comprehensive Sexuality Education in addressing the violence among adolescents and youth.

Including knowledge about men's violence against women and violence in close relationships in higher education

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Including knowledge about men's violence against women in higher education is part of Sweden's commitment to the Istanbul Convention, § 14 and 15 (ratified by Sweden in 2014). Knowledge about men's violence against women and violence in close relationships is included in the degree description in eight qualification descriptors in the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance. This means that to award the qualification Degree of Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy, Dental Hygiene, Nursing or Social Work, or to award Degree of Master of Science in Medicine, Psychology, Dentist or Law, the student must demonstrate knowledge of men's violence against women and domestic violence.

Each public-sector higher education institution has autonomy and decides independently which educational content that is needed to implement the new qualification target. To bolster higher education institutions, the Swedish government has commissioned the Swedish Gender Equality Agency to support educational institutions with educational initiatives and knowledge support.

To be able to know what support the higher education institutions need to fulfil their obligations to give students knowledge about men's violence against women and domestic violence, the Gender Equality Agency has conducted a survey together with the University of Gothenburg.

The result of the survey gave a fragmented picture with a wide variation regarding teachers' knowledge level, educational experience and the teaching on various forms of violence. The Swedish Gender Equality Agency has offered education and knowledge support, adapted to the teachers prior knowledge and background experience, in areas like men's violence against women; violence in close relationships; children subjected to violence; women in vulnerable situations; prostitution and trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation and honour-related violence.

The result of the study and the educational initiatives that the Agency, in collaboration with several universities and university colleges, is offering higher education institutions will be presented at the seminar.

Five years of running an online course about men's violence against women and domestic violence: An example from Sweden

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Knowledge about violence is crucial for providing high quality care and support for people subjected to violence. The National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence Against Women (NCK) at Uppsala university, has noticed an increasing demand for education about men's violence against women, especially since the regulations of the Istanbul Convention were put in place. E-learning and web based resources enable more people to access knowledge and NCK, therefore, decided to develop an online course.

NCK's online introduction course on men's violence against women and domestic violence was launched in 2016, and it has had 80 000 users since. During the pandemic in 2020 there was an increased demand for online courses, and 26 000 users registered for the course.

Produced in collaboration with the National Board of Health and Welfare and National county administrative boards, the online course is based on more than 20 years of experience teaching the subject at university level. It is cross-disciplinary and aims to increase the competency among professionals who meet women and children subjected to violence. 40 % of the users work in social services, but the course is also used by other authorities, healthcare staff and students. The course is free of charge and open to all. It teaches the basics about the extent of violence, its nature and consequences, the normalisation and break-up processes and society's responsibility.

NCK and the national county administrative boards actively promote and distribute the online course among target authorities and organisations.

The online course has been evaluated by reference groups during its development as well as by users one and four years after the launch. Education efforts initiated by the national county administrative boards have also been evaluated.

NCK has been commissioned by the Swedish government to increase the knowledge of men's violence against women nationally.

Disrupting the system: Examining the acceptability and effectiveness of a cross-cultural training programme for professionals supporting victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence (DASV)

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Throughout the pandemic, H.O.P.E Training and Consultancy (H.O.P.E) have been bringing together frontline workers, activists, students, and academics to discuss the reality of domestic abuse in Black, Asian, and other minoritised communities.

Discussions with attendees have revealed the urgent need to improve cultural competency among professionals supporting victims of DASV from Black, Asian, and other minoritised communities. This issue was mentioned by different attendees on average of 30 times over the course of 16 virtual meetings in 2020. As a result, H.O.P.E developed a cross-cultural training programme which the organisation is implementing in 2021. To our knowledge, H.O.P.E's cross-cultural training programme is the first of its kind in that it is being delivered by experienced Black and Brown professionals working in the DASV space. This paper will present the emerging findings and discuss the recommendations from the ongoing independent evaluation of the programme as a way to create 'system shifts' in how organisations understand and respond to the needs of Black, Asian, and other minoritised communities.

Family violence as a public health problem: Effects and costs in Finnish health care

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Family violence (FV) is a global health problem incurring significant costs to both individuals and health care systems. However, FV as a cause of injuries and other health issues is often unrecognized in patients attending health care services. The aim of this study was to provide more information on the long-term health effects on victims of family violence and the costs to health services of treating victims. This is the first longitudinal study on the health outcomes and associated financial costs of Finnish victims of family violence. It is also the first study to directly compare the health effects and costs of treating different types of interpersonal violence.

A total of 345 patients were identified as victims of interpersonal violence in a mid-size Finnish ED during the period 2011-2014. Their use of health care services was analyzed two years before and two years after their recognition date.

Female gender and older age significantly differentiated FV victims from other victim groups. FV victims also presented the most varied health symptoms both before and after recognition, although less significantly than those found in comparisons between victims and non-victims of FV. The health care costs of family violence victims already exceeded the level of the general population 1.5 years before their identification in emergency care and further increased towards the identification date. Victims' health care costs declined after identification but remained higher than the population average two years later. Service use and associated costs were also significantly higher among the family violence victims than among the other victim groups, especially before identification.

These findings indicate that earlier identification of family violence in health care could significantly reduce both individual suffering and the financial burden it places on health care services.

Public health nurses: In the identification of domestic violence and abuse.

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Background: To identify the factors that might influence public health nurses' ability to identify domestic violence during home visits. **Research question:** What are the influencing factors that affect public health nurses' ability to ask and identify the occurrence of domestic violence and abuse? **Methods:** The study took place in a community healthcare organisation in the UK. Public health nurses participated in the mixed-method study. **Phase one:** Surveys completed by twenty-seven public health nurses; **Phase two:** Ten semi-structured interviews. **Phase three:** An additional eleven, semi-structured interviews. Interview and survey data were thematically analysed. **Findings:** Not all public health nurses could recognise the range of abuse that victims could experience. Public health nurses identified how they used intuition to detect the subtler signs of abuse. When there is a language barrier, interpreters were available to assist in the communication between the public health nurse and client. Findings have highlighted that interpreters may create barriers for women to disclose domestic violence and abuse due to concerns around confidentiality. There were also issues around cultural competence of public health nurses, which influenced the disclosure of abuse by women of Black and Asian minority ethnic groups. Public health nurses highlighted a lack of confidence in asking male clients and those in same-sex relationships about domestic violence and abuse. **Conclusions:** This study found that training programmes should include different signs of abuse and the ability to use intuition to support domestic abuse identification. There was also the need for cultural competence training and how to engage with women from different cultures to support abuse disclosure. Moreover, how to ask about domestic abuse regardless of the gender of clients. A proposal is made for a new model to support domestic violence and abuse education and training.

Raising awareness among health professionals and front-line service providers about reproductive coercion: portrait of a collaborative and knowledge exchange project

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At the intersection of violence against women and reproductive health, reproductive coercion (RC) refers to behaviors that interfere with contraception and family planning and reduce women's reproductive autonomy. Despite the recognized presence of this complex form of violence, the results of consultations with health professionals and front-line service providers indicate a lack of knowledge in this regard. Consequently, they do not feel prepared to identify and intervene on this topic. Thus, the general objective of this project is to improve the knowledge of health and social services providers who work with women and people who may become pregnant to assess, support and refer in regards to RC.

To obtain a better understanding of the knowledge, attitudes and skills as well as barriers to intervention of reproductive health professionals and front-line service providers regarding RC and identify their needs in terms of training, we conducted 5 focus group. In total, we met 31 people from various professional backgrounds from different regions of Québec (Canada). The focus group content was analyzed and these results were added to our literature review of interventions and training contents on RC. We then adapted, translated and developed a practice guideline and an awareness tool on RC. In accordance with the principles of knowledge exchange, a later phase of this project made it possible to improve both the content and the organization of the tools by again consulting the professionals interviewed during the focus groups on the first versions of the documents. This collaborative approach has enabled the creation of inclusive documents adapted to their professional contexts and their needs. As part of this presentation, we will present both the process of the knowledge tools production and the tools created: an educational tool for women and individuals who may become pregnant, and an intervention guideline for professionals.

Family focused interventions that have combined impacts across domestic violence, mental ill-health, and substance misuse: a systematic review

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Background

Interventions targeting domestic violence, mental ill-health, and substance misuse tend to be largely delivered in siloes by separate services and commissioners, despite the fact that these three public health issues often co-occur and cluster. Families experiencing a combination of these issues are particularly vulnerable, at increased risk of harm, and have historically been presented with numerous barriers to accessing the support they need. Commissioners are seeking better ways to support these families and have expressed a need for evidence about which interventions might impact clusters of these public health issues.

Method

In this systematic review, we searched 11 databases from inception to 2020 for randomised controlled trials (RCTs) that examine the effectiveness of family focused interventions aiming to prevent parental domestic violence, mental ill-health and/or substance misuse and/or respond to the negative impacts they can have on children within the family unit. The review is a narrative synthesis of studies and has been informed by PPI work throughout.

Findings

We report on findings from the narrative synthesis of studies that have reported on two or more of the following outcomes; parental domestic violence, mental ill-health, and substance misuse. 35 studies have been identified for inclusion; data analysis of these studies is currently underway and expected to be complete by summer 2021. Preliminary analysis reveals patterns in the type, focus and impact of interventions, including differences in their gendered approach and hypothesised change processes.

Conclusions

The review helps identify the 'best bet interventions' for families at risk of, or experiencing, domestic violence, mental ill-health, and/or substance misuse and will be of use to commissioners and service providers looking to prevent these co-occurring issues.

Whole Lives - bringing lived experience of domestic abuse to the heart of research and practice in Scotland

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Aims

To hear directly from survivors of domestic abuse in Scotland about their experiences accessing specialist services. To meaningfully involve survivors in research and practice processes.

Background

Research has indicated that specialist support services are inconsistently available across Scotland and victims with intersecting needs can be “hidden” from services. Over the last three years, Whole Lives Scotland set out to work directly with local authorities to combine data with survivor voice and practice expertise to identify gaps in service provision.

Methods

One of the key project activities was a survey for survivors of domestic abuse in Scotland. It included questions about experiences of abuse and help-seeking on which quantitative and qualitative analysis was undertaken. 346 people responded in total including 279 victims of partner abuse who answered the online version.

Via the domestic abuse service network, we recruited a group of eleven survivors who formed our ‘Authentic Voice Panel’. The Panel reviewed and shaped our research and outputs, becoming actively involved in influencing work across the sector.

Findings

In November 2020 we published our findings:

Survivors experienced domestic abuse for an average of five and a half years.

The majority (87%) told someone about the abuse, on average four people/agencies after four years of abuse.

Two thirds (67%) of survivors had never accessed a specialist domestic abuse service.

Survivors who had not accessed a service had still disclosed to an average of 3 people/agencies.

Themes from a rich body of free-text responses illuminated some of the barriers to accessing services survivors identified.

Recommendations

We formulated four recommendations with support from the Authentic Voice Panel. To reduce barriers to support access and bolster the domestic abuse response in Scotland we suggest a suite of awareness-raising, ‘whole family’ service provision, specialist provision for victims with intersecting needs, and cross-sector culture change programmes.

The Impact of Providing Specialist DV Parenting Intervention to Mothers and Fathers Involved with Child Protective Services: Preliminary Outcomes from the Safe and Understood Research Project

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Exposure to domestic violence (DV) is one of the most frequently substantiated forms of child maltreatment in Canada. As with other forms of maltreatment, very young children are disproportionately vulnerable. The Safe and Understood research project aimed to improve outcomes for young children (0-4 years) involved with child protective services by embedding specialist domestic violence interventions for parents within child protection services and by providing child protection ongoing service workers with professional development training and clinical consultations around responding to DV cases. We explored the following three areas of inquiry:

- 1) We collected outcome and program evaluation data to look at program efficacy and impact;
- 2) we conducted a cluster randomized control trial which explored attempts to change practice responses in the context of child protection work with these families; and
- 3) we analyzed the process of implementation for these programs in a variety of contexts (urban, rural, community-based vs child-protection contexts).

Preliminary research findings from this multi-year, multi-province project will be presented that highlight important results. First, we present program evaluation data gathered from child protection-involved mothers participating in Mothers in Mind (n = 120) and fathers participating in Caring Dads (n = 178), showing that both programs are associated with positive self-reported pre- to post-program change. We then examine these results in light of an in-depth analysis of referral pathways to each program as well as issues of implementation within a range of contexts. We show that many families deemed to be in need of intervention are not referred to services and that, even among those referred, rates of successful engagement and retention are problematic. We outline implications and recommendations for ongoing development of collaborative child protection and specialist DV services.

#ReachIn: A rapid review of informal Social Support Interventions for victim & survivors of domestic violence & abuse

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Background and aims: The pandemic has highlighted the challenges that policing, health and frontline services face in seeking to identify and support victims-survivors of domestic violence and abuse (DVA). Interventions that aid informal networks (such as family, friends, neighbours and community groups) have therefore come to play a critical role (Sanchez et al., 2020). Yet, very little is known about interventions that promote, enhance, or create informal social support for adults affected by DVA. This research aimed to identify informal social support interventions, and underpinning mechanisms, that improve outcomes for victims and survivors of domestic violence and abuse (DVA).

Methods: The project undertook a two stage rapid systematic review guided by an advisory group of survivors, academic experts and DVA organisations. In the first stage, the project undertook a scoping review to build knowledge around the nature and extent of research on informal social support interventions in DVA. The second stage undertook in-depth analysis and synthesis to identify effective interventions and how they 'work'.

Findings: The presentation will describe and analyse the nature and extent of the research on informal social support interventions. This will detail the types of interventions and include initial indicators of effectiveness.

Implications: The research offers insights into the role of informal social support for improving outcomes for victims and survivors of DVA. This has implications for communities, DVA practitioners and policy-makers.

This research is funded by the Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC), as part of UK Research & Innovation's rapid response to Covid-19.

Exploring the pathway between family domestic violence and young adults' abusive relationships: a qualitative study.

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Background

Approximately one-third of young people in the UK have experienced intimate partner violence and abuse (IPVA) on reaching young adulthood. Teenage and young adult partner violence is an understudied area with most evidence stemming from surveys with limited qualitative work exploring young adults' own meanings of IPVA and its antecedents. This study investigated the life histories of young adults who experienced IPVA, their experiences within their family of origin, education, peers and partners and how they impact on their health, wellbeing and behaviour.

Methods

Qualitative, semi-structured interviews with 18-25 year olds who had experience of IPVA in their own relationship and/or domestic violence in their family of origin, using Life History Calendars (LHC). A thematic analysis of the data was used, alongside an ecological framework approach to the findings.

Findings

19 of 20 participants had experienced IPVA in at least one relationship. Twelve participants had experienced Domestic Abuse (DA) in their family of origin. Most participants (n) had experienced maltreatment or poly-victimisation prior to IPVA. Many participants reported that attempts to disclose DV or early maltreatment were often not believed at family, peer, community or institutional levels. Negative responses often involved harmful labelling of the young person and, consequently, feelings of loneliness and isolation were common and further damaged health, wellbeing and affected subsequent behaviour. This negative feedback loop can make young people more vulnerable to abusive intimate relationships. Being heard can help ameliorate negative affects.

Conclusion

Using interviews plus LHCs and an ecological framework allowed for a more detailed understanding of young peoples' experiences prior to IPVA.

The findings highlight the importance of actively listening and believing young people and their accounts of maltreatment in not perpetuating the cycle of DA. Loneliness and isolation are key influences in the pathway between young adults' early years and later IPVA.

Abused Women as ‘Alienating’ Mothers and Violent Men as ‘Good’ Fathers: Double Standards in Child Custody and Child Protection Proceedings

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Background and purpose of the study: This paper will present findings from a study funded by the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, which investigated ‘parental alienation’ and its use in the context of domestic violence. Using a feminist critical discourse analysis framework, this study examined why some women who have experienced domestic violence are seen as ‘alienating’ mothers in child custody or child protection proceedings. **Methods:** Qualitative data were collected from multiple sources in a four-stage design: documentary analysis, case law analysis, interviews with key informants and case studies. This paper will focus on 13 case studies conducted in the Province of Quebec, which included interviews with women and an analysis of relevant documents (e.g., child protection reports, family evaluations, court decisions). **Findings:** The research findings reveal double standards in child custody and child protection proceedings, in cases involving domestic violence and ‘parental alienation’. While abused women have been seen as ‘alienating’ mothers, violent men have been seen as ‘good’ fathers. This happens in a context where professionals involved in both child custody and child protection proceedings often fail to identify and understand domestic violence. They also tend to promote father-child relationships in all circumstances, failing to acknowledge the links between domestic violence and men’s parenting skills. **Conclusions and implications:** The research findings shed light on a critical issue, which is the misuse of ‘parental alienation’ in child custody and child protection proceedings. They demonstrate how the use of ‘parental alienation’ in domestic violence cases reproduces gender bias and double standards. **Recommendations for policies and practices** will also be presented.

Coparenting as a critical factor in understanding the ongoing impact of domestically violent fathers on their children

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Although most children exposed to father-perpetrated domestic violence (DV) continue to have contact or live with fathers, there is relatively little research exploring the pathways through which they continue to have impact on children's outcomes. In this presentation, results are presented from two studies demonstrating that men's coparenting respect is a critical contributor to child outcomes. In the first study, analysis of self-report data from 123 fathers with confirmed histories of DV perpetration and 101 comparison fathers without such histories is presented. Results show that paternal coparenting difficulties significantly mediate the relationship between child exposure to DV and child internalizing and externalizing difficulties. Mediation through coparenting was stronger and more consistent than paths through men's parenting. The second study examined change in men's parenting and coparenting over the course of intervention, contrasting hypotheses from a spill-over model of change, which suggests changes in coparenting will 'drive' changes in parenting, to a feminist model, which suggests the opposite. Results, based on longitudinal data from 50 fathers who completed the Caring Dads intervention program, found that the feminist framework model was the best fit for the data. There was a significant positive longitudinal relationship between baseline coparenting undermining and end of treatment paternal warmth, such that improvements in paternal warmth predicted improvements over time in his coparenting relationship. Conversely, results indicated that the spillover hypothesis model, which predicted cross-lagged, longitudinal associations between coparenting difficulties at baseline and paternal warmth at end of treatment was a poor fit for the data. Mothers may thus be acting in a protective way, being more cooperative in coparenting only once men improve in their parenting. Together, results from these two studies suggest attempts to improve outcomes for children exposed to DV should focus at least as much on men's coparenting as on their parenting.

How much expert are the experts? “Psycho-Practices” in child custody cases in situations of domestic violence in Italy

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Background and purpose of the study

Child custody in case of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) or Child Abuse (CA) is a sensitive issue. In Italy, joint custody is the preferred model; sole custody is allowed when shared custody is deemed contrary to the best interest of the child. In the process of custody determination, judges can appoint an expert to assess parenting skills. Aims of this qualitative study are to explore how experts evaluate these situations: what theories guide their decisions; what elements are included in the evaluations; how much violence, if any, is detected; and, ultimately, what decisions are made.

Methods

Semi-structured face-to-face interviews were conducted with 13 psychologists and 2 psychiatrists (8/15 women), with an experience of “technical consultant” (TC) for the Courts. The anonymized interviews’ transcripts were analyzed with content analysis: Coding, namely the classification of data into categories.

Findings

Most experts revealed strong prejudices against women; adherence to controversial models (e.g. Parental Alienation Syndrome), and poor knowledge of domestic violence and relevant laws (e.g. Istanbul Convention). The principle of co-parenting was acritically made to coincide with the best interests of the child, even in presence of a violent parent. A strong defense of fathers, and mothers’ blaming were common, revealing a pervasive gender bias. In the end, IPV and CA remained invisible.

Conclusion and implications

This is the first study in Italy exploring expert’s knowledge, beliefs and modus operandi. Results suggest that IPV and CA are frequently overlooked, with serious consequences for women and children. In Italy, Technical Consultants did not have systematic trainings on IPV or CA: it is urgent to develop and implement it. Guidelines on child custody decision-making in the context of IPV and CA could be of help for practitioners.

The Absent Voice: an examination of women's experiences of child contact cases involving domestic abuse in Scottish courts.

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INTRODUCTION

Drawing from a qualitative study of women's experiences, this paper critically examines the application of the law on child contact and domestic abuse in Scottish family courts. Since 2006, section 11(7A-E) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 has required Scottish courts to have particular regard to the need to protect children from domestic abuse and the effect it can have on parents' abilities and responsibilities to care for and meet children's needs. This paper examines the approach of family courts in Scotland to child contact from the perspective of mothers who have raised concerns about domestic abuse.

METHOD

Data is drawn from in-depth interviews with women who have been involved in Scottish contact cases involving domestic abuse and is underpinned by qualitative data from family law solicitors.

FINDINGS

Findings are presented on how mother's concerns about unsafe contact are minimised and considered irrelevant to contact by legal professionals, including solicitors, child welfare reporters and judges.

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

The paper concludes that a strong assumption that contact with fathers is in the best interests of children acts as a key barrier to mothers' claims about domestic abuse being addressed. The paper discusses the implications for effective implementation of existing and new measures in Scottish legislation designed to protect children in contact cases.

Between powerlessness and resistance: Immigrant women and intimate partner violence in Iceland

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In spite of limited research, recent data indicate that a significant number of immigrant women in Iceland report incidents of violence to the police and seek help at the women's shelter. These data indicate immigrant women in Iceland occupy a precarious position at the intersection of gender, race and class. The 2018 #metoo stories by immigrant women in Iceland revealed underlying factors regarding their experiences of institutionalized and structural violence related to the women's personal backgrounds and reactions of state institutions and service providers. The published narratives indicate that the violence these women experience is not only in their intimate partnership but also through societal isolation, institutional ignorance and racism.

In light of this, the paper presented here, analyzes 16 #metoo stories concerning intimate partner violence published in January 2018 in the Icelandic online newspaper Kjarninn. The stories were chosen as this was the first time that immigrant women in Iceland as a group spoke out about their experiences of violence in intimate partnerships and the workplace in the context of #metoo. Using poststructuralist feminist discourse analysis, we ask the following research questions: How is violence constructed in the narratives of immigrant women in Iceland? How do immigrant women position themselves within the stories when describing their experiences?

Our results indicate that the violence is constructed through discourses of racism, postcolonialism, othering and being a victim. Through these discourses the women refer to positions of powerlessness, e.g. a maid, sex slave or victim they inhabit. At the same time, they refuse to be powerless and gain back power by sharing their experiences publicly.

These results lay the groundwork for future in-depth research on experiences of violence of immigrant women in Iceland and in other countries and how structural violence is reproduced by the society and institutions responsible for supporting them.

When knowing your rights isn't enough: Using narratives to explore the tensions between human rights and legal frameworks for immigrant women experiencing IPV in Iceland

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Iceland has signed and ratified multiple international human rights documents, pledging to protect against all forms of discrimination. Yet, statistics on violence against women are a cruel reminder that human rights as a legal construct do not succeed in protecting and preventing gender based violence to an acceptable level. Despite this, the typical Icelandic response to the abuse of immigrant women in the work and domestic spheres is to tell the women that they should know their rights. This creates a burden on people who may already be in traumatic or difficult situations. It also overlooks both the legal reality of immigrants in Iceland and theories of effective human rights education. Drawing on interviews with key stakeholders, survey data and initial interviews with immigrant women in Iceland, this paper looks at the prevalence of workplace and intimate partner abuse of immigrant women along with the human interactions behind the numbers. The data is framed within human rights education in dialogue with theories of legal violence, showing the inherent tension between these two concepts and how it mirrors the tension between Icelandic service providers and the immigrant women they serve. In short, the over dependence on the legal dimension of human rights is insufficient. Although historical struggles for justice show that knowing your rights can increase accountability to ensure those rights, knowledge needs to be supported by networks and communication channels that foster solidarity and raise awareness of the power of the moral and political dimensions of human rights. Increased awareness of the potential power of legal, moral and political human rights must include those who commit forms of violence and those who offer services to both groups.

A Postcolonial Feminist Critique: Why do the SDGs fail displaced women facing a heightened risk of gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how can the social work profession respond?

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This study examines the failure of the SDGs to protect marginalised women and the Social Work profession's role in addressing these shortfalls. The example used to demonstrate this neglect is the heightened risk of gender-based violence faced by displaced and stateless women during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mohanty's (1984) *Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses* is used as the foundation for this postcolonial feminist critique. In dealing with postcolonial feminist theory, a connection is made with the patriarchal influences instilled within the SDGs by using Šumi's (2020) translated working paper '11 theses on patriarchy'. Applying Ife (2001) and Healy (2017) as a framework, the study also explores the implications for Social Work and its possible response. The findings of this study are based on an analysis of SDG 5, highlighting that the SDGs fail to explicitly mention refugees or displaced people within the agenda. In addition, the indicators used to measure the targets of the SDGs do not consider the precarious living conditions of displaced communities therefore promoting an 'ethnocentric universalism'. The main outcomes of the study were recognising that although the SDGs set out a comprehensive framework, marginalised communities, including displaced women experiencing violence, are inherently excluded. The SDGs in their current form reinforce the system of patriarchy, as a global social type of hierarchisation, whereby violence is instrumental in maintaining power regardless of its consequences on human rights. Social work must situate itself within the SDGs in order to call-out and act upon its downfalls as well as advocate for greater space to be given to marginalised voices. Further research on the remaining SDGs or legally binding documents such as CEDAW might extend explanations of how these instruments encompass singular narratives of feminism or are influenced by patriarchal structures; and therefore, perpetuating gender-based violence against women.

“In the Qur’an, it is not allowed to beat women”: Understanding the Levantine refugee women’s experiences of spousal violence through epistemic diversity

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Research suggests refugee women experience a continuum of violence, including high levels of structural and interpersonal violence across forced migration. However, minimal evidence exists concerning their experiences of spousal violence from religious and cultural perspectives and how these can impact on their vulnerability and resilience. Adopting an intersectional and social constructionist lens, I examine the religious influences on refugee women’s experiences/understanding of spousal violence and argue that epistemic diversity with faith sensitivity is needed to effectively respond to survivors’ needs.

I draw upon a segment of data collected in my PhD research project in Turkey with 21 Syrian and 2 Iraqi women - most subjected to structural and interpersonal violence pre-migration and in refuge. Mixed methods were used; primarily in-depth interviews and secondarily questionnaires, also online surveys with 25 practitioners and 16 key-informant interviews.

Women shared varying cultural and faith perspectives on their experiences of domestic violence and described an intertwined, patriarchy-underpinned, relationship between gender, culture, and religion, in which it is difficult to separate one from another. Drawing upon their spiritual capital and worldview, most survivors believed that spousal violence is not allowed in their religion and spoke about the Prophetic practice and faith narratives to counter it. However, they also demonstrated variable interpretations of the contentious Qur’anic verse 4:34, showing that the intersection of gender, patriarchal cultures and religious constructs, as socially constructed, can exacerbate vulnerabilities to domestic violence, while also building resistance against it.

Understanding lived theology, often appearing paradoxical to outsiders, can enable access to religious concepts, important to survivors, and influential resources to counter violence. Practitioners and researchers might benefit from undertaking intersectional analysis and engaging with religious resources to contextualise interventions effectively. Embracing epistemic humility and diversity with faith sensitivity is needed to mitigate risks of epistemic violence when supporting refugee survivors of faith.

Ensuring Victims Rights

Kola Ildize¹

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Sexism generally no longer finds root in formal forums such as law and policy, but it is pervasive on an informal scale; the opposite being true regarding efforts to counter sexism. Current practices must be implemented so as to supplement formal avenues with the informal spheres of influence that shape victims' everyday lives. In doing so, cross-sectorial support systems must be erected to actively bring justice and aid to women and victims of domestic violence. Many current frameworks for policy and practice inadvertently put the onus of ensuring the fulfilment of rights and social protections on victims of abuse. Victims must go out and deliberately demand these rights to law enforcement, for example. However, this is usually the last thing that a victim of domestic violence does, and usually it is done after the victim has already endured a great deal of abuse and trauma. Sometimes, such trauma and abuse—as well as social stigma and guilt—effectively prevent the victim ever accessing these avenues toward justice.

Thus, victims' rights must be ensured through policy and practice aimed at targeting informal avenues of the propagation of domestic violence, incorporating aid in victims' day to day points of contact, and ensuring cohesive frameworks for justice. Therefore, this paper will be based on the examination of existing policy that actively serves victims of domestic violence, notably bystander intervention training. Innovative elements such as the application of such training in fields not usually associated with the fight against domestic violence—fields such as dentistry and hairdressing, for instance—will be analyzed as well, and emphasis will be paid to cross-sectional cooperation in the fight against domestic violence.

The examination of such policies is vital for further research regarding widespread social change to protect victims of domestic violence, and to ensure access to justice.

Promoting legal gender equality to counteract domestic violence

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Women, Business and the Law (WBL) examines legislation affecting women's prospects as entrepreneurs and employees in 190 economies. In 2019, Women, Business and the Law introduced an index of 35 scored data points to better measure each economy's performance, and created a 50-year historical database, constructing a panel dataset showcasing more than 1,500 legal reforms in women's rights from 1970 to 2020.

This presentation aims at showing not only the current status of women's rights globally and but also that better performance in the areas measured by the WBL index, including domestic violence legislation, is associated with a narrower gender gap in development outcomes. This includes higher female labor force participation, lower vulnerable employment, and greater representation of women in national parliaments. Further, the enforcement of legislation aimed at protecting women from domestic violence has been associated with a reduction of gender inequality and discrimination in the labor market.

50 years ago, no economy in the world guaranteed women legal protections from violence in the context of domestic relations. International and regional conventions and mechanisms, which urged countries to enact legal protections and have been fundamental strong drivers of reform trends both at the regional and global levels.

The five decades of data covered by Women, Business and the Law show that currently 81% of the economies have legislation on domestic violence; a reform trend that started in 1981, with the adoption of the Irish Family Law Act.

Economies have come a long way, but more work needs to be done, particularly when it comes to prevention measures, enforcement of the law and availability of services for survivors. As legal reforms are the first step towards a positive change for women's lives, WBL data can be used to identify good practices, promote legislative change and informed decisions regarding policy reform.

Multi-level sequelae of intimate partner violence in humanitarian settings: Using an ecological framework to systematically review the evidence

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Background

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a pervasive form of gender-based violence that is exacerbated in humanitarian settings. While drivers of IPV in humanitarian settings have been examined, the sequelae of IPV in humanitarian settings have yet to be critically explored. Using an ecological framework, this systematic review examined the multi-level sequelae of IPV.

Methods

Following Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) procedures, we included 46 articles from a total of 3,827 reviewed articles. The quality of all articles was reviewed using the Appraisal tool for Cross-Sectional Studies (AXIS tool). Data extracted from each article included study aims, population, year, location, IPV measurement, outcome variables, and statistical analysis.

Findings

We identified sequelae of IPV across two levels: individual / survivor and microsystem / relationship. Our analysis corroborates previous evidence that indicated IPV to be overwhelmingly associated with adverse physical and mental health for survivors, as well as subsequent experiences of violence. Our findings also uniquely synthesized sequelae of IPV beyond the survivor. Most notable was the intergenerational impact of IPV, as children who experience IPV between parents were at an elevated risk of experiencing IPV during adulthood (victimization and perpetration), reporting worse physical health conditions, and holding accepting attitudes toward IPV. Findings highlight the gap in evidence of the impact of IPV at other levels of the ecological framework.

Conclusion

The impacts of IPV are far-reaching for both survivors and their families in humanitarian settings. An increase in research, response, and funding to address IPV is critically needed to support global aims of gender equality and to better address the specific needs of women and girls in humanitarian settings. Efforts should prioritize addressing the range of both health and non-health sequelae of IPV among individuals, families, and communities and considering how the humanitarian environment influences these linkages.

Young women's experiences of sexual coercion

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Aim

This research focused on exploring how young women discussed their attitudes towards, and experiences of, intimate relationships.

Background

The problem of abuse within young intimate relationships continues unabated, though our understanding of this issue has grown over the years, there has been limited focus given to the voices of young women to assist us to understand their experiences of how they negotiate their identity and power within their intimate relationships.

Methods

A regional study completed across seven secondary schools in North Wales, included a focus on an attitudinal survey (n=220) to explore young women's perceptions on gender norms and un/healthy intimate relationships, with a particular focus on their gendered attitudes. A series of semi-structured interviews were completed in order to gather in-depth information from 25 young women aged 15-18 years old.

Findings

The focus of this presentation is to explore in detail the theme of sexual 'double standards', sexual coercion, consent, choice, power and control. The consequences of sexual coercion, both subtly and overtly, resulted in the young women questioning their self-worth if they submitted to both unwanted and wanted advances. This illustrates the sexual coercion of meeting male sexual desires within their timescales. The discussion will also outline the pressures within young intimate relationships and the uncertainty of the boundaries around sex, choice and control.

Conclusion/Recommendations

Abusive behaviour in young intimate relationships was overtly displayed, indicating a lack of awareness of acceptable behaviours or indeed the need to hide this harmful display of abuse. This reflects that it has become acceptable among young people to display sexual coercion in the public arena, reflecting their normalisation of sexual coercion. The visibility of this behaviour may not necessarily function as a protective factor, in particular as it is normalised as acceptable behaviour.

Violence by Proxy; Stalking and Third Party Involvement

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This paper discusses the significance of third party involvement within the stalking experience and proposes a new classification to demonstrate the considerable role and impact of third party connections. As a gender based violence, stalking can have a significant and traumatic impact on those victimised. During the experience of being stalked, targets often become isolated from others as a consequence of the perpetrator's power and control over their everyday lives. Because of this and the well-known links between stalking and domestic abuse, stalking is often assumed to involve only two people – the perpetrator and the target. This paper argues, however, that third parties are an integral part of the majority of stalking cases. Furthermore, both the perpetrator and the target are more likely than not to make use of third parties. Mullen et al. (2009) have described that third party individuals can be a 'possible' addition to a stalkers tactics but it is posited that the full significance of third party involvement has not been recognised, nor the extensive range of individuals. Using data gathered from in depth and unstructured interviews with 32 victims of stalking, this paper demonstrates that, depending on the context of their involvement, third parties can be of benefit or detriment to either the perpetrator or the target. The paper will also show, however, that regardless of who involves the third parties, on balance their presence empowers the perpetrator and disempowers the target. The paper presents a fresh analysis, using a feminist framework of power and control, of third party connections in the stalking experience and proposes a new classification of those who may be involved and describes their roles and impact on the target. In conclusion, the implications for the criminal justice system and in particular, police investigation, will be discussed.

Tracking down or stalking? The pursuit of identity-shifting women by sex buyers in the sex trade

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Who defines what constitute stalking within the sex trade? Online communities for sex buyers present researchers a valuable source for information regarding the thought process and dynamics underlying the sex industry.

In this presentation, I will argue that features inherent in this emerging technological field throw into chaos previously held assumptions about what constitutes “stalking,” how to tackle it and what represents consenting boundaries within the sex trade.

This presentation for the ‘4th European Conference on Domestic Violence’ is based on my Master’s Degree research ‘The Construction of Masculinity in the Online Communities Where Men Talk About Their Experiences as Buyers in the SexTrade’, published by Oregon State University in 2016. My methodology was Qualitative Research and utilised the tools of Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis to scrutinise the underlying power dynamics of the content sex buyers produce in the first online communities for sex buyers, which originated in the United Kingdom: Punternet and UK Punting.

The dynamics of the sex trade condition that women oftentimes rotate, or simply vacate, the agencies they work with within a matter of months. My research demonstrated that the women advertising themselves through their agencies tend to alter or camouflage their ethnicity, race and nationality while navigating the prostitution industry.

However, online communities for sex buyers facilitate the tracking down of specific women, in which a sex buyer sets out to find a particular woman and fellow sex buyers contribute to finding her so that he can pay her for sex. Does this pursuit constitute stalking? If so, does the tracking down of women who wish to remain anonymous (by changing their names, changing agencies and masquerading their ethnicity or nationality) by men seeking them for sex constitute a form of technology assisted violence? What are the ethical issues posed to the academics researching these online communities?

Transforming the Response to Stalking in the UK: Innovation and Insights from Multi-Agency practice

Bhaker Suky¹, Kane Cath²

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Stalking is a devastating pattern of unwanted, fixated and obsessive behaviour, which causes fear of violence or engenders alarm and distress in the victim. While anyone can become a victim, stalking is more likely to affect women (80% of victims) and links with other forms of gender-based violence, in particular domestic abuse and femicide.

Although significant progress has been made nationally to incorporate risk management strategies into multi-agency working to address domestic abuse, interventions that effectively address stalking are scarce and limited. In isolation, some stalking behaviours may appear 'low risk' when they are in fact composite of a pattern that is dangerous. Effective interventions must address the stalker's behaviour whilst being survivor-centred and trauma-informed to enhance protection to those victimised.

In this presentation, Suky Bhaker CEO and Cath Kane Consultant share insights and key learning from the internationally recognised, London-based service that is transforming responses to stalking. Suzy Lamplugh Trust works to reduce the risk of violence and aggression through campaigning for change, education through training and advocacy support through the National Stalking Helpline. The Trust was founded in 1986 by Suzy's parents after her disappearance and presumed murder.

Suzy Lamplugh Trust have developed a world first: UK-based Multi-Agency Stalking Intervention Programme (MASIP) alongside partners including police, probation and the health sector. This pioneering programme aims to enhance protection for victims through agencies working together to provide a meaningful intervention, where a robust criminal justice response is paired with a health-based approach to address the fixation and obsession.

The pilot implementation of MASIP highlights the importance of partnership working to address the multi-faceted complexity of stalking behaviours. Sustainable, systemic change demands vision, leadership, resilience and resources. The Trust hopes the MASIP blueprint can act as a guide to influence global change whilst keeping survivor-focused, trauma-informed responses at the forefront.

-facilitated parental stalking in children's and young people's lives: Analysis of Finnish court case files on stalking

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Knowledge of technology-facilitated stalking has increased in recent decades, but research on how technology-facilitated stalking by a parent affects children and young people is still lacking. In the presentation we are interested in how technology-facilitated parental stalking manifests in children's and young people's everyday lives in contexts where parents have separated and fathers/father-figures have stalked mothers as part of post-separation coercive control. We argue that children's exposure to technology-facilitated parental stalking must be more widely recognised and children should be seen as victims/survivors in their own right.

The paper analyses materials from 131 stalking cases dealt with by district courts in Finland from 2014–2017 in cases that involved a relationship (dating, cohabitation or marriage), separation/divorce, and one or more children. We made a content-oriented analysis by examining how technology-facilitated stalking was manifested in children's and young peoples' everyday lives.

Analysis of the court decisions show that children and young people were affected by three manifestations of technology-facilitated parental stalking: (1) Threats of violence and death; (2) Intrusive and obsessive fatherhood; and (3) Disparaging and insulting motherhood/womanhood. Technology reinforces perpetrators' ability to be present in children's and mothers' lives, and conduct surveillance of it, despite any spatial distance put between them. Such abuse can occur even when children are physically spending time with their father.

Our findings underline the following contextual factors that are important for law enforcement and social welfare professionals to consider in identifying and helping children and young people: The power of technology in coercive and controlling abuse, technology in maintaining abusive parenthood, and technology in magnifying gendered tactics of abuse. The study shows that the fathers'/father-figures' use of technology in stalking renders children direct victims and potential targets of homicide.

‘Upskirting’, homosociality, and craftsmanship: A thematic analysis of perpetrator and viewer interactions

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‘Upskirting’ is the action or practice of surreptitiously taking photographs or videos up a female’s skirt or dress. In England and Wales, it became an offence in April 2019 as voyeurism under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, punishable by up to two years’ imprisonment with more serious cases added to the Violent and Sex Offender Register. However, internationally, such laws are not widespread. Understanding how perpetrators account for their actions becomes an important question. In this talk, we present the findings of our thematic analysis of posts on one of the largest dedicated ‘upskirting’ websites, The Candid Zone, containing more than 28,000 specific threads and with more than half a million posts. Our analysis shows that posters and respondents frame this activity as artistic and technical, and provide each other with advice and guidance on where, and how to get the ‘best’ shots. We conceptualise this as forms of abuse, homosociality and craftsmanship.

Body and body events in working with survivors of sexual abuse and domestic violence (psychoanalytical perspective)

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When working through psychoanalytic perspective, questions of conceptualization of body, what is a body, how body is formed, what is the difference between being/ having a body arise and they cannot be answered through only medical and social discourse but need questioning and further analysis. Especially when using psychoanalytic perspective for working with survivors of sexual abuse and domestic violence, question of the body becomes very much present and raises issues on how to include the body in the treatment, especially when we consider traumatized, fragile bodies, is body already included in the treatment, what are (are there in every case) bodily effects of trauma etc.

As a Lacanian psychoanalyst working with victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence I will be very much interested in presenting in the text what kind of role does body play in the psychoanalytic sessions, treatment and how an analyst in certain cases assists or tries to assist formation of a more connected and coherent body when working with people who, due to trauma, come with bodily phenomena of detachment, depersonalization etc. I will be presenting from my own work and through Lacanian psychoanalytic theory how to work in such cases and how to work in the direction of 'having' instead of 'being' a body.

The use of neuroscience in interventions for survivors of intimate partner violence: A scoping review

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Background & Purpose: Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a worldwide public health issue with detrimental consequences for mental and physical well-being (World Health Organization, 2017). Given that many survivors of IPV experience forms of trauma such as posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (Pill et al., 2017), psychological interventions have increasingly focused on trauma recovery (Kulkarni, 2018). Recent neuroscientific research has emphasized a need to address the neurological impacts of trauma, with interventions that strengthen emotional regulation and brain functioning (Holzel et al., 2011; Wong et al., 2014). Mindfulness-based interventions, for instance, offer benefits such as strengthened brain functioning (i.e., anterior cingulate cortex, insula, pre-frontal cortex, hippocampus, cingulate cortex) (Holzel et al., 2011, Siegel, 2009). Despite these advances, there is limited understanding of the role of neuroscience within interventions for survivors of IPV.

Methods: Arksey and O'Malley's (2005) five-step scoping review method was utilized. The scoping review addressed the research questions: 1) What is the volume and nature of empirical literature incorporating neuroscience into interventions for survivors of IPV?; and 2) How does the empirical literature on interventions for IPV incorporate neuroscience? The search included four databases: MEDLINE, PsycINFO, Scopus, and Social Work Abstracts. Key words such as "intimate partner violence" AND "neuro*" OR "meditation" OR "trauma" AND "intervention" OR "therap*" were used. The papers were reviewed, extracted, and analyzed by three independent reviewers to identify common themes and literature gaps.

Findings & Conclusions: After summarizing findings from the scoping review, the paper reveals that while there is a robust body of research examining neuroscience related to other traumatic experiences such as adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) (Navalta et al., 2018), there is a dearth of research incorporating neuroscience into IPV interventions. The paper provides key recommendations and implications for incorporating neuroscience into practice, as well as research next steps in this area.

How and when employment benefits IPV-victims and survivors. A symbolic interactionist approach.

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While economic dependency has been acknowledged as a risk factor of intimate partner violence (IPV), the causal relation between economic independency and IPV is very complex. In line with the 'exchange theory' one might posit that employment will decrease the experiences of IPV. However, the desire for male dominance among abusive men can also result in a "backlash" if women gain economic resources. This implicates that while the presence of equal or greater economic status of a woman may mediate IPV, the process of gaining greater economic independence may initiate more violence. Against a policy backdrop that reveals a shift 'from welfare to workfare' and a growing emphasis on labour participation, it is necessary to gain an in-depth understanding of how and when employment benefits women in relation to IPV. Further, the complex relation between economic independency and IPV emphasizes the necessity to include the impact of the social context in the research design. Therefore, the present study combines an ecological framework with a symbolic interactionist approach. First, a literature review surveys the intersection of IPV and employment. An ecological framework results in an in-depth understanding of how employment can benefit IPV-victims in leaving an abusive relationship, but also reveals that research into the value of employment after IPV is scarce. To address this gap, in-depth interviews with 20 IPV-survivors in the Netherlands were conducted between June 2020 and February 2021. Based on a symbolic interactionist approach, these interviews are designed to elicit detailed information on women's perception and experience on the value of employment in relation to IPV. Interim data analyses stresses that the immaterial and symbolic value of employment is as important to IPV-survivors, and at times even more important, than the material value of employment (i.e., economic independency). These findings underline a multimodal approach in preventing IPV.

Domestic Abuse Recovery Toolkit on-line

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As covid-19 forces specialist domestic violence/abuse organisations to reduce the face to face contact they have with their client group we brought together a group of service providers across England to pilot an online recovery programme for those who had fled domestic abuse. This has been a time of increased vulnerability for many; with a surge in people trying to access help and reports of ex-partners using the pandemic as an excuse to try to re-establish contact or move back into the family home in an act of pseudo-caring support.

The Domestic Abuse Recovery Toolkit (DARTK) is a twelve-week online programme that helps participants to identify and develop their own strengths, resources and coping skills. Participants are given practical strategies to help them thrive in their daily lives by developing resilience, increasing hope and enabling recovery. The programme focuses on providing information on the dynamics of domestic abuse and how this may have impacted on them. The DARTK follows the principles of trauma informed practice and utilises knowledge from various therapeutic interventions, such as Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioural therapy (TF-CBT) and Psycho-education.

Initial evaluations are that we have been able to successfully provide support and tools to aid recovery for individuals who have experienced domestic abuse, we have also been able to create a 'trauma-informed' space online.

It has provided much needed contact and peer support to individuals who have been left isolated by their experiences of abuse and have been further isolated due to covid-19.

Our wider learning is that by providing the programme online we have been able to reach individuals who may otherwise have been unable to access this service even before the pandemic. (those with disabilities ,no transport etc) (282)

Impact Outcome Monitoring Toolkit: a process and outcome monitoring tool for perpetrators treatment in Europe

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The wide variety of methodologies (Babcock, Green, and Robie, 2004; Hester et al., 2014) and the lack of suitable tools to measure outcomes (Kelly and Westmarland, 2015), pose a challenge to measure effectiveness of perpetrators programmes.

The IMPACT monitoring toolkit was created to overcome this difficulty, through harmonizing and enhancing the monitoring and evaluation of the results of work with perpetrators in European countries. It is a final product of the project “IMPACT - Evaluation of European Perpetrator Programmes” (2013 – 2014 Daphne III), and it is currently being roll-out in several European countries.

In this presentation, the IMPACT Toolkit will be reviewed as a tool for measuring outcome of perpetrator programs which goes beyond the analysis of behavior change; and monitoring practices within the work with perpetrators will be discussed as a tool for improving the practice.

The IMPACT Toolkit measures several longitudinal perpetrator programme outcomes, stated by the perpetrators and their (ex-) partner. Some of those outcomes include: behavioral change, motivation to change, responsibility, awareness of behavior impact, children situation, and safety issues. Preliminary results from the participating programmes, will be reviewed in this presentation.

Discussion will focus on the toolkit capacity to produce a quality European-wide dataset, to allow researchers, practitioners, and policy makers to have a body of evidence to design and implement the most effective programme content and delivery.

Dialogic model for the prevention and resolution of conflict

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In one of the latest studies published by UNICEF on violence against children, it is stated that more than 275 million children are victims of domestic violence (UNICEF, 2006). On the other hand, there are relevant studies that show that, if aggressive behaviors are not stopped during the first stage of school, there is a high risk that aggressive behavior will become entrenched and grow during adolescence and adulthood. Therefore, practices capable of laying a solid foundation for overcoming violence among peers, as well as within families themselves, are urgently needed. The application of the dialogic model of conflict prevention and resolution has been shown to prevent violence from the age of 0, thus also contributing to prevent domestic violence (Iñiguez, Orejudo, Ruiz & Elboj, 2021). In the present communication we present the results of two investigations carried out between 2019 and 2020 through communicative approach (documentary analysis, communicative observations, communicative focus groups, as well as in-depth interviews). The results identify three key elements that achieve the success of the dialogic model in conflict prevention and resolution. These are: the dialogic training of teachers, the involvement of the whole community, and the establishment of an egalitarian dialogue among the whole community to establish the rules to prevent violence (Roca, Melgar, Gairal-Casadó & Pulido, 2020).

Conceptions of school violence in teacher education

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Violence at school remains a burning issue. Whenever there are excessive cases of school violence, we can see in the media and other public concerns and criticism focused mainly on schools and teachers who should "do more" to prevent such phenomena. Criticisms are sometimes justified, but all too often the complexity of the issue is limited to the school and employees of school institutions, who are not supposed to be adequately trained to deal with violence in the school field. Schools, together with teachers, other school staff, students and parents, can strengthen or successfully limit the presence of violence, but one of the most important factors in successfully dealing with school violence is certainly the attitude of teachers towards violence and the other one their competencies, which are necessary for recognizing and preventing school violence. Teachers should be able to respond to the emerging challenges of the knowledge society, actively participate in it and prepare students to be independent lifelong learners. Teacher education must be at a high level of education or equivalent and must be supported by a close partnership between higher education institutions and the institutions where teachers will be employed. In present paper, the authors examine what happens to the coverage of the contents of school violence; by addressing children's rights and their protection in the curricula of study programs that form future teachers in Slovenia. At the same time, the authors also examine the legal acts that impose and enable employees in education to implement various strategies for dealing with violence at school.

Key words: violence and school, teachers, curriculum, legal documents

Individual and institutional barriers to help-seeking among female survivors of intimate partner violence in Ghana

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Background and Purpose: Although a global menace, intimate partner violence (IPV), is very high in sub-Saharan Africa, and Ghana is no exception. The literature shows that the majority of women who experience IPV do not seek help. Meanwhile, there is limited understanding of the motivations and barriers to women's help-seeking behaviours from an individual and institutional perspective. This study began to fill this gap. **Method:** We used qualitative data from 30 women in three of Ghana's sixteen administrative regions (Ashanti, Upper East, and Greater Accra) to explore their experiences with help-seeking after surviving IPV. In addition, 15 staff at the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) in the three selected regions were interviewed to explore barriers to help-seeking from an institutional perspective. **Results:** Results from the thematic analysis showed low reporting of IPV cases among female survivors to formal support networks such as DOVVSU or the police, but high preference for informal support networks such as family members, religious and community leaders. The decision to seek help was motivated by fear of death, further escalation of violence, and not being able to bear more physical and emotional pain. Reported barriers to help-seeking included: stigma, fear of escalating the problem, fear of divorce, privacy concerns, and children's presence in the relationship. From an institutional perspective, barriers ranged from inadequate administrative and logistical support, inadequately trained personnel, distance to DOVVSU offices, lack of privacy at DOVVSU offices, and financial constraints. **Conclusion:** The findings suggest that the barriers and motivations for help-seeking among female survivors of violence in Ghana are complex suggesting the need to address these barriers from an individual and institutional perspective.

Challenges in the response of the protection and support system in Serbia to the needs of women with experience of intimate partner violence and their children

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In Serbia, a good legal basis has been established for achieving comprehensive protection and support for victims of domestic violence. The purpose of the analysis was to establish whether women with experience of long-term and current violence in a partnership, who mostly have an unfavorable existential situation and minor children in their care, received complete information from public institutions and timely and appropriate protection and support in accordance with the laws. The appropriate sample (N = 59) were women with the experience of partner violence, who sought support from a specialized women's organization from Belgrade. They responded to a structured questionnaire, with mostly closed-ended questions, on the situation of violence, implemented protection measures, information obtained, needs assessment and support services provided. The open-ended questions were focused on women's perceptions of the achieved security, assessment of experts' attitude towards them and satisfaction with the support. The findings showed insufficient information of women about their rights and their minimal participation in planning, modest implementation of security measures, the absence, non-compliance and mostly short-term support services, which do not respond to needs in different areas of life, almost complete lack of protection and support for children, who witness violence against mothers, and a lack of control of the violent parent. Many women report a significant degree of secondary victimization in contact with professionals, a relationship that reflects mistrust, misunderstanding, distance, and passivity. The results indicate the need for further changes in public and institutional policies, increasing capacity and expertise to achieve full and quality information, security protection that contributes to the internal experience of security, and available and quality support services, responding to the specific needs of women and children over time.

Key words: violence in intimate partnership, women and children, available information, participation, protection and support interventions.

Violence and oppression within and outside an inconsistent system of help: the Czech case

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The Central European region has struggled with adopting legislation against domestic violence with the Czech Republic being no exception. Legislation was adapted in the 2000s and amended later, with efforts at explicitly addressing the gender based nature of violence have been in vain – the latest blow coming in the form of rejecting the ratification of the Istanbul Convention across the region. All of these factors make domestic violence a promising field for (applied) social scientific research, a field that remains locally under-researched. A window of opportunity opened with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Two researchers interested in oppression and gender based violence came together with activists and social workers from NGOs working predominantly with women survivors of domestic abuse to conduct research into how the pandemic and corresponding measures affect the system of assistance for survivors. The main research methods were semi-structured interviews with survivors of domestic violence, social workers and therapists from NGOs, police officers and social workers in state institutions (Department of Social and Legal Protection of Children), lawyers and judges. More than 30 interviews transcripts were analysed and the results were triangulated with document analysis. The results show the system of assistance to survivors is seriously inconsistent in the Czech Republic, which is caused by a wide range of interpretations of the character of violence and its recognition. This is known also in international literature (Hester, 2011; Helmersson and Jönson Håkan, 2015), however its consequences in the Czech Republic became significantly stronger in context of Covid-19. State institutions reported a decrease of domestic violence while NGOs recorded an increase in demand of up to 40 % compared to 2019. In the presentation, we also consider the gendered nature of violence and its local reflection.

The marginalisation of the vulnerable within the vulnerable: Domestic violence and homelessness

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Domestic violence (DV) has been recognised as a human rights violation and a serious public health issue. However, its full costs largely remain invisible, with DV remaining on the periphery of government budgets and public consciousness. As economic costing studies gain momentum, it has been estimated that the costs of non-fatal DV against women and children are substantially greater than the combined costs of homicide, assault, terrorism and war. This ground-breaking knowledge highlights the need for an effective response to DV that reflects the magnitude of the issue, and Ireland is no exception in this regard. A mixed-methods study was thus conducted to estimate the social and economic costs of intimate partner violence against women in the Republic of Ireland. Fifty women participated in in-depth interviews, collecting qualitative and quantitative data. This combination of data enabled a statistical analysis, complemented and broadened by thematic analysis. The findings provide salient insights into the intersection of DV, poverty and homelessness. The vast majority of the participants who have left an abusive relationship have struggled financially, becoming reliant on the state for income and housing. Drawing on Bordieu's concept of social capital, this paper explores the marginalisation of the vulnerable within the vulnerable, exploring such themes as: the exclusion of women and families in DV refuges from national homeless figures, the influence of the housing crisis on women's decision to leave an abusive relationship and the increase in families registered as homeless with their local authority transitioning from a refuge to a B&B or a hostel. The research findings establish an important evidence-base for policy change and the recognition of the wider costs of DV.

The Cultural Scaffolding of Domestic Violence and Abuse

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This paper explores, from a feminist poststructuralist perspective, the processes by which heterosexual women enter abusive relationships. Data are taken from narrative-style interviews with fourteen women who had been in relationships with abusive men.

At the start of heterosexual intimate relationships more broadly, a range of cultural tropes and popular discourses provide the milieu in which people experience and make sense of the developing relationship. Traditional romance narratives, for example, drawing on very particular models of masculinity, are powerful discursive repertoires, that shape the ways in which we are able to conceptualise relationships.

All fourteen women could distinguish between, on the one hand, behaviours that constitute a healthy and nurturing relationship and, on the other, abuse. However, between these two conceptualisations lies a considerable space within which the significance of understandings and practices becomes blurred. Later in the relationship, when they had begun to detect a pattern, the possibility of abuse was considered. In the early phase, however, the behaviours sat stubbornly in the space between what constitutes 'normal' and 'abusive', and no degree of certainty was possible.

In the absence of discourses with which to construct their partners' behaviour as anything other than positive, participants tended to draw on dominant romantic narratives to explain it. By the time they became aware of their predicament, they had already become ensnared. I argue that the dominant discourses on heterosexual intimate relationships, and the practices of which they are constituted, operate as a cultural scaffolding (Gavey 2005) of domestic violence and abuse.

Gendering discourses in experiences of justice and domestic abuse

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Background and purpose of the study: The Women's Aid Federation of England (the national charity working to end domestic abuse against women and children) has been working in partnership with the Centre for Gender and Violence Research at the University of Bristol (UK). The aim of this knowledge exchange project has been to explore the use of 'gendering discourses' in relation to survivors' attempts to obtain 'justice'.

Methods: We analysed transcripts of 36 in depth interviews with domestic abuse survivors. The interviews were previously conducted as part of the ESRC funded 'Justice, Inequality and Gender Based Violence' research (ES/M010090/1). The analysis focused on interrogating the survivor interview transcripts for gendering discourses, defined as those that strengthen and perpetuate inequality between men and women, gendered norms and stereotypes. We used methods of critical discourse analysis to investigate how gendering processes are at work in survivors' accounts of lived experiences of domestic abuse, including in accounts of perpetrators' behaviours and responses of friends, family and statutory agencies to the abuse.

Findings: Our findings highlight stark differences in the use of language as applied to men and women. We found dominant gendered discourses around the themes of 'heading the household', 'homemaking', 'mental health' and 'sexual purity and availability'.

Conclusions and implications: We found that gendering discourses have the impact of impeding justice, through excusing the perpetrators' abusive actions and minimising or silencing survivors' voices. We will take this work forward in our policy, campaigning and service work in highlighting the importance of directly challenging these discourses and the gendered norms they perpetuate.

Looking for the real monster: How dominant discourses on violence constitute the experience of perpetrators of violence in intimate relationships.

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The aim of this paper is to examine the myth of the monster and how it informs the experiences of perpetrators of violence in intimate relationships. The monster-myth is a production of discourse on violence and rape culture. It can be seen in assumptions about violence in intimate relationships that are far removed from reality. Our intention is to answer the following research question: How is the experience of perpetrators of violence in intimate relationships constituted by the dominant discourses on violence and how does that influence the formation of the individual self?

Research on violence in intimate relationships has largely been divided in two, sexual violence or intimate partner violence. In this paper we will showcase they can be researched jointly. We examine the experience of seven men who admit to having committed sexual or physical violence in a relationship. We are interested in the discursive context they draw on when making sense of their experiences as perpetrators of violence and how they constitute their individual selves in relation to dominant discourses of violence, specifically the monster-myth.

Research shows that survivors of rape and IPV often do not recognize the acts carried out against them as violence when they do not fit the common discourse of such violence. Furthermore, there is a hierarchy within the discourse where some acts are considered more serious than others, according to how well they fit the monster-myth. Our findings suggest the same applies for perpetrators who often do not recognize their actions as violent until confronted about it. Similarly, they process their experiences differently depending on how well their actions fit the monster-myth. We argue the myth is harmful because it prevents men from recognizing their acts as violent and hinders them from seeking the help needed to deal with their violent behaviour.

First and Second Wave Abuse in the Context of Intimate Partner Violence Victimisation: Is it time to re-imagine definitions?

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Background: Intimate partner violence (IPV) remains a serious world-wide social issue with significant negative health and social consequences. A multiplicity of definitions exist regarding the nature of this phenomenon making measurement and comparison of findings an ongoing challenge for the scientific community. Although there are wide variations, typically, definitions include terms such as physical, psychological and sexual within their working definitions. Additionally, violence and abuse are terms which are appear frequently and are used interchangeably in the literature.

Methods: This paper draws from a series of research studies originally undertaken on men's accounts of female perpetrated abuse and other evaluation studies. Literature sources using both female and male victim perspectives as well as personal reflections also inform this presentation.

Findings: The variation of definitions utilised in the IPV literature will be presented and critically discussed. This paper presents two concepts as a means by which to re-imagine traditional IPV definitions. 'First wave abuse' as that which mirrors traditional IPV definitions and 'second wave abuse' as abuse initiated by another but not enacted by them. Attention to the frequency of IPV experience and frequency of interaction with support providers is also suggested as an important aspect for scholars concerned with IPV measurement.

Conclusions and implications:

This paper illustrates the strengths and weaknesses inherent in current IPV definitions which ultimately influence practice, research and policy. Greater sensitivity by scholars to the problem of multiple definitions, and some areas requiring further attention are highlighted. A call for consensus regarding a definition of IPV amongst the scientific community is suggested.

COVID-19, Domestic Violence and Social Work Practice

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The rapid spread of COVID-19 in communities across the globe has put increased pressure on health and social service providers. Among them social workers engage with some of the most vulnerable in society and have continued to work on the front-line throughout the coronavirus pandemic. The families with whom they work with often experience multiple adversities alongside domestic violence and abuse. Movement restrictions and stay at home orders introduced to slow the spread of the virus, paradoxically leave these families at even greater risk from those within the home. Quantitative research utilising a survey methodology sought to capture a picture of social work practice in Ireland with families experiencing domestic violence and abuse during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Emerging findings from the data support evidence globally of increases in the prevalence of domestic violence and abuse during lockdown, in addition to practitioner fear and anxiety around managing risk to families known to have a history of domestic violence and abuse. Findings also highlight both the changes and challenges in work practices and procedures that limit social work assessment and quality contact with families, changes to the help-seeking behaviours from victims/survivors, as well as emerging innovative practice responses with enhanced use of technology.

The implications for practice include an increased awareness of the risk and prevalence of domestic violence and abuse accelerated by the pandemic. Social work assessment and intervention with families experiencing domestic violence and abuse must remain adaptive to the changing COVID-19 context and continue to develop innovative practice approaches that aim to meet the needs of those most at risk.

Supporting Polish women victims of domestic abuse in the UK before and during Covid-19: practitioner perspectives

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This paper reports the findings from a research project to investigate the barriers to accessing domestic abuse support faced by Polish people living in the UK. The project seeks to understand why UK domestic abuse services have a very low number of referrals and use by Polish women despite approximately 850 thousand Poles living in the country.

Analysis of 30 semi-structured interviews conducted in two periods: before Covid-19 (2019) and during Covid-19 (2021), with UK-based practitioners working in various fields, shows that the barriers in supporting Polish women identified in the pre-Covid part of the study are intensified by Covid-19, along some new ones like access to services or managing translations in delivered over-the-phone services.

The findings show that as with all cases of domestic abuse, networks of friends and community are crucial in supporting Polish women to seek support. However, unsympathetic reactions from friends, relatives and wider community members will leave women isolated and ashamed, especially if they live and work in these same groups. Financial and administrative issues connected to migration status (e.g. valid passports, access to benefits) also inform decisions about whether to leave abusive relationships. Finally, there is limited awareness and low trust of the UK legal framework and domestic abuse services among Polish women, including fears that child protection services may take children into state care. These factors have specific features associated with being a Polish migrant and can be exacerbated by language barriers.

The paper seeks to enhance academic knowledge of domestic abuse faced by Polish women living in the UK and highlights its transnational dimensions. As practice implications, we draw attention to the role of workplaces and Polish community organisations in raising awareness of domestic abuse, distributing information and facilitating access to support.

Violence against women in covid-19 pandemic and public health: Old problem, new reality

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Violence exposure can result not only in injuries, but also serious long term physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health problems and the World Health Organisation resolution (1996) identified domestic violence as a major public health problem. During health crises, such as the covid-19 pandemic, violence against women tends to increase. Stress, the disruption of social and protective networks, loss of income and decreased access to services all can exacerbate the risk of violence for women. Data across the world show a significant increase in domestic violence cases related to the covid-19 pandemic.

The National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) conducts a survey on the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on everyday life (SI-PANDA) on a representative sample of inhabitants aged 18 +. 8.000 questionnaires will be distributed in the cross-sectional survey during two replicates in February and April 2021. The estimated response rate is 50%. The survey includes a module on domestic violence: questions about physical, psychological, sexual, or economic violence and restrictions on social contacts by a family member and about the effect of the pandemic on the occurrence of violence in the respondent's family. Survey data is not yet available but will be in a few months. We will present data on the prevalence of exposure to various forms of domestic violence in the last twelve months by sex and age groups, data on perpetrators, and effects of the pandemic on the occurrence of domestic violence.

We believe that our findings will be important for further activities for prevention and detection of domestic violence, and support of vulnerable ones.

On NIPH we are developing a gender-based perspective on health and we are aware of the importance of addressing the topic of domestic violence by raising awareness of this issue and sensitizing the general population and health care professionals.

Domestic violence in Slovenia during the covid-19 epidemic

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This paper examines domestic violence levels recorded in Slovenia in the two waves of the coronavirus epidemic.

In order to understand what recorded data tells us about the changes to the prevalence of crimes of domestic violence, we examined daily police statistics during the two waves of covid-19. We paid particular interest to the weeks when people were ordered to stay at home. We focused on the analysis of family-related criminal offences that are subject to prosecution in Slovenia: Abduction of minors under Article 190 of the Criminal code, Domestic violence under Article 191 (the victim of which is a person of legal age), and Neglect and maltreatment of a child under Article 192 (the victim of which is a person under the age of 18). We defined the parameters of our research stemming from the official response to the pandemic. The first wave began when the government passed a Decree declaring the state of epidemic in March 2020, and ended when Slovenia - as the first country in Europe - declared that its epidemic was over at the end of May 2020. The second wave started with another governmental Decree in October. As the second wave of the epidemic has not officially been recalled, we analysed the data until the end of December, so both waves' length was comparable.

Comparing the weekly number of criminal offences in 2020, we observed an increase in the selected criminal offences across the board. The only exception was the offence of maltreatment of a child in the first wave, but not in the second.

The paper further discusses the characteristics and possible explanations for the changes to crime rates in this period.

The #MeToo Campaigns in Postsocialist Neopatriarchy

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In several post-socialist countries there are two opposing processes. On the one hand, local versions of #MeToo campaigns are being taken up and on the other hand there is a disturbing rejection of Istanbul Convention by political and religious leaders. In Slovenia, the #MeToo campaign differed significantly from most western districts. Their analysis suggests that there are local features in the Slovenian material and that the campaign appeared at the height of the era of neo-patriarchy, when global inequalities were increasing. Women who testified were not celebrities, and public figures and men against whom they spoke were not famous, rich and powerful. The women told ordinary, "little" stories about everyday sexual assaults in childhood, teenage and adulthood. The majority of them were not interested in taking legal action against the perpetrators, which can partly be explained by the rural context, religious influences and social norms related to sexual violence against women reproduced in educational, judicial and other social systems.

News Coverage of Domestic Violence and Abuse: Mainstream media, social media and gendered stereotypes

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Media power plays a role in determining which news is told, who is listened to, and how subject matter is treated, resulting in some stories being privileged in the media while others are marginalised or silenced. This paper examines how domestic violence and abuse (DVA) is reported in mainstream and social media encompassing analogue and digital news formats. The study assesses whether there is continuity with earlier research regarding how victims of DVA, predominantly women, are portrayed as provoking their own abuse and, in cases of femicide, their characters denigrated by some in the media with impunity. With the rise in digital media, the research analysed digital news platforms, social media, and the traditional media form of printed newspapers. Following our earlier research which ended in 2012, the timespan of the current study was 2013-2020. Due to increasing numbers of consumers accessing news using mobile phones and computers, the paper analyses the interplay of traditional media and social media, and how social media users are responding to DVA cases reported in the news. The interface between news production and news consumption is also analysed. Discourse analysis was used to examine the construction of language, the relationship between language and image, and the potential messages projected to audiences. The research identified five interconnecting themes: victim blaming, victims receding from view, celebrity and royal connections, tabloidisation, and the 'sex game gone wrong' defence. News content importing gendered language and gendered stereotypes is examined together with the implications of a digital clickbait culture. Findings highlight the need for ethical reporting. The research showed how distorted representations can reinforce myths and stereotypes around DVA, undermining efforts to tackle it. The paper concludes with strategies for improving the reporting of DVA, and how responsible reporting could better communicate risk factors and help prevent future DVA.

Look who is s-talking now: Revisiting interpersonal terrorism in post-MeToo, Covid-19 times and beyond.

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Aim:

This presentation aims to explore stalking as a form of gender-based violence within the context of #MeToo (post-) era and Covid-19.

Background:

Stalking is often (not always) part of a repertoire of sexual harassment, domestic abuse, coercive control that are often employed by (male) perpetrators to exert power and maintain or regain control. Recent evidence on the incidence of stalking during Covid-19 lockdowns indicate that issues such as violence against women, safety, vulnerabilities, (mis-)understandings remain imminent as ever, became visible and/or even exacerbated. This presentation seeks to explore the current state of research, policy and responses in relation to stalking by examining it as a gendered phenomenon within the socio-cultural context of #MeToo (e.g. its resurgence or emergence in different countries like Argentina #MiraComoNosPonemos, Greece #WeBelieveYou, etc.) and reflect on socio-legal implications in a Covid-19 era.

Methods:

This presentation is based on the findings of a qualitative study on stalking victimisation that took place in England and Wales in 2014 (before stalking became a crime in the UK) and which findings resulted in a monograph that was published by Palgrave Macmillan in June 2020 ('Victims of Stalking: Case Studies in Invisible Harms'). These findings will be revisited and discussed in light of recent evidence, socio-cultural changes and policy responses.

Conclusions:

There is a need to think about stalking as a separate form of interpersonal abuse with its own harms and to understand it by locating it within the wider landscape of gender-based abuse and related social movements. This may allow developing theories, policies and responses that incorporate all different ambiguities and complexities of an elusive yet ubiquitous and semi-hidden or unspoken form of interpersonal violence. Covid-19 crisis may constitute a 'good' chance to take a closer look at "who is s-talking now, and again' and why.

‘#TERF/Bigot/Transphobe’ – ‘We found the witch, burn her!’ A contextual constructionist account of the silencing of feminist discourse on the proposed changes to the Gender Recognition Act 2004, and the policy capture of transgender ideology, focusing on the potential impacts and consequences for female-only spaces for victims of male violence.

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This thesis examines the clash between transgender ideology and women’s rights in the context of female-only spaces in the male violence against women sector. Through exploring the silencing of feminist discourse regarding the proposed changes to the Gender Recognition Act (2004) from the UK Governments of England and Wales, and Scotland, this research provides an original contribution to assess the impact and consequences of gender reform and self-identification, in both policy and legislation, on the United Kingdom’s male violence against women (MVAW) sector.

Taking a qualitative approach, 31 participants were interviewed from both sides of the gender reform debate, this was combined with online ethnographic research from the social media platform Twitter. The data was coded and categorised in a thematic analysis and seven main themes emerged which were collapsed into two chapters analysing the ‘debate’ and the impact of gender reform on the MVAW sector. The findings highlight a stark difference between the public discourse of transgender ideologues and the participant data, the former of which claim inclusion of transwomen in female-only spaces are supported by the MVAW sector. However, the research illuminated that blanket acceptance of transwomen in female-only spaces was largely rejected by both sides of the debate, and the retention of these spaces alongside specialist services for transgender victims were offered up as a solution. The research evidences the topic being shrouded in silence and fear, particularly for women who work within the MVAW sector. Through the passivity of the umbrella bodies in the MVAW sector and unwillingness of politicians to support reasoned public discourse, policy capture of transgender ideology has been enforced. This research provides an original and authentic contribution to the debate.

Domestic violence against immigrants: The Istanbul Convention's potentials and problems

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Despite studies showing that several factors increase immigrants' risk to become victims of domestic violence, specific protection mechanisms are rare to find. Article 59 of the Istanbul Convention provides one: Autonomous residence permits are supposed to avoid power imbalances that are created when one partner is given control over the other's residence benefits, which can then be withdrawn or threatened to be withdrawn at will in order to pressure the victim not to report instances of domestic violence. However, terms and conditions apply. Article 59 can be opted out of when ratifying the Istanbul Convention. Even when states do not opt out, they are free to establish the applicable conditions according to their internal law. Yet practice shows that certain conditions either render article 59 devoid of its purpose, which is to prevent domestic violence against immigrants and to provide access to justice for victims, or considerably limit its scope of application and its practical use to victims. Thus, the present study seeks to establish which conditions, on paper and in practice, determine whether the objective of article 59 can actually be met. It does so by analysing the state of implementation of that article in the CoE member states. Such an analysis is especially needed since research on this topic stands at almost zero. In addition, article 59 itself does not assure, among other things, that intersectional discrimination is given due account in the dealing with immigrant victims of domestic violence. This is despite research showing that volatile administrative situation increases the risk of further abuse of rights, and consequently that immigrants face the risk of being discriminated against not only on xenophobic grounds, but also based on their sex, gender identity, sexual orientation and/or disability. Consequently, the present research uses an intersectional approach and a gender perspective.

Monitoring State Compliance with the Istanbul Convention

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The Istanbul Convention places detailed obligations on states parties regarding their responses to domestic violence, as well as to other forms of violence against women. The reporting procedure which constitutes the Convention's primary monitoring mechanism commenced in 2016. A number of states have now undergone the first round of reporting, and the time is ripe for an assessment of monitoring under this instrument. Using the documents produced by these states, and also by the Group of experts on action against violence against women and domestic violence (GREVIO) and the Committee of the Parties as part of the reporting procedure, the paper will analyse this procedure as applied to the states in question.

Prior to their ratification of the Istanbul Convention, the primary international human rights body which monitored the responses of these states to domestic violence, and to violence against women generally, was the CEDAW Committee. In assessing the initial steps taken as regards the reporting procedure under the Istanbul Convention, it is therefore appropriate to draw comparisons with the reporting procedure under CEDAW. The comparison between the level of detail contained in the reports submitted by states under the Istanbul Convention's reporting procedure and the amount of information which is provided by states in their reports to the CEDAW Committee is striking. Likewise, the reports formulated by GREVIO provide a far more in-depth assessment of the responses of states than do the Concluding Observations issued by the CEDAW Committee. The paper will also assess further important aspects of the reporting procedure under the Istanbul Convention, such as the use by GREVIO of evaluation visits to states; the publication of comments by states on GREVIO's reports; and the role of the Committee of the Parties. Additionally, potential difficulties with the approach to reporting under the Istanbul Convention will be discussed.

Ten years after the Istanbul Convention: supranational warnings, vulnerability, defensive guarantees.

Trapella Francesco¹

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BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE - The starting point is the Article 3 ECHR, from which derives the obligation for the States to protect the psycho-physical integrity of the population, and avoid dangerous situations. During the emergency period due to Covid-19, in different European Countries, national authorities imposed a lockdown: people had to stay at home. Cause of this situation, victims of domestic violence risked a lot, because they were forced to stay with their attackers. The topic research consists on understanding if, during the Covid-19 period, European Countries respected the obligations that European Law (EU Law and ECHR) imposes to safeguard victims.

METHODS - For approaching to analysis, it is necessary to: a) deep the jurisprudential guidelines on the protection of domestic violence victims (in particular, for the following aspects: facilities access to Police, right to information of victims, immediate activity of Police, investigative completeness and National Authorities predictability of contexts harmful to fundamental rights); b) examine the variables able to determine the phenomenon of domestic violence (through ISM method (Interpretive Structural Modeling) is possible to individuate factors that impact more on the domestic violence phenomenon).

FINDINGS - To reach conclusions, it refers to a ECHR case for each aspect of jurisprudential guidelines on the victims protection; ISM investigation imposed the submission of questionnaires to a group of people and the results were compared to some official statistics in some European Countries (Italy, Slovenia, Croatia and Sweden).

CONCLUSIONS - The research shows that the cohabitation between victims and attackers and the victim state of subjection are the factors more impacting on the domestic violence; they were increased because of anti Covid-19 measures. Since the pandemic emergency is not an unexpected event as the "first wave", States that are unprotective to victims risk to violate the Article 3 ECHR.

The importance of civil society shadow reporting in international monitoring processes: GREVIO and CEDAW

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Referring to the two experiences of actively coordinating for D.i.Re , the Italian network of women Shelters, the two last Shadow Reports for the monitoring processes Italy went through for the GREVIO Report (2018-2020) and the Cedaw (2017 and 2021) , I can outline the best practices developed for a widely inclusive process of civil society , the best strategies adopted and lessons learned. The interest of sharing this experiences lies in the increasing importance those monitoring processes gain with reference to State authorities and recent attacks to women's rights and gender -equality, which as a consequence exacerbate also the problem of GBV. Civil society, and specifically women's NGOs and feminist associations and activists, play a crucial role in these processes as they outline the cultural, political and social background of institutional policies and strategies and the importance of the respect of women's human rights. They offer the monitoring experts a view from the perspective of grass-roots NGOs and practitioners on the field of VAWG, DV and GBV as well as gender - equality, as a counter-balance to the gender -neutral approach and vision of policy-makers and legislators. The aim of this presentation is to encourage civil society to actively get involved in international monitoring processes and to share the necessary skills and strategies in the interest of all women victims of violence and gender justice.

The 365-day Battle against Violence against Women in Ljubljana

Topolinjak Simona¹

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The City of Ljubljana pays special attention to those who are especially vulnerable due to their particular circumstance. One among such groups are women and children who are victims of violence. The City's commitment to combat violence against women and children is seen in two strategic documents, in the Strategy for the Development of Social Care and in the Action Plan for Gender Equality. The City's measures how to prevent violence against women can be divided into three clusters:

- Financial support for NGOs that work in this field: through annual public tenders co-financing accommodation programs (crisis center, safe houses) and counselling programs for women and children - victims of violence, for perpetrators and for human trafficking victims;
- Spatial support for NGOs: supplying premises for program implementation;
- Awareness-raising activities, programs and public events with goal of reducing tolerance of violence against women, achieving zero tolerance, linking governmental and NGOs in the common struggle against violence, informing and raising awareness among potential victims of their rights and forms of assistance (e.g. panel discussions in the City hall, campaign for ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on the Preventing and Combating Violence against women and Domestic Violence, in 2018 exhibition »When he hits the door the second time, I covered the hole with the poster« in the Kresija Gallery, numerous media activities).

With the City of Ljubljana dedicated work to prevent violence against women and violence against children it is in Cities big interest that it contributes to the prevention and elimination of violence. So, the City of Ljubljana will continue with awarness raising campaigns and activities and also keep suporting NGO's in this field.

Five Swedish authorities' collaborative work for increased and enhanced detection of violence

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Preventing and combating men's violence against women, intimate partner violence and honor-based violence demands active and systematic measures from society. In order to promote societal change, there's a need for authorities to increase and enhance the detection of violence.

Background

A precondition for violence to be discovered is that local authorities ask clients and customers questions about their experiences. However, in Sweden's death investigations of children and adults who have died as a result of a crime by somebody next of kin it appears that such measures have been neglected. Neither the Swedish Public Employment Service, the Swedish Social Insurance Agency nor the Swedish Migration Agency had asked any of the victims with whom they had been in contact about their experience of violence.

The purpose of the practice and presentation

Based on the results from the death investigations, five national authorities – the three mentioned above, the Swedish Gender Equality Agency and the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare – have been commissioned by the Government to collaborate during 2019–2021 in order to improve detection of men's violence against women, intimate partner violence and honor-based violence.

The authorities' joint work focuses on the exchange of knowledge and experience regarding routines and methods for detecting victims of violence as well as perpetrators, comprehensive information on violence, legislation, protection and support, as well as enhanced support for staff.

The commission is regarded a high priority within the authorities, and despite several organizational obstacles during the way, the work for increased and enhanced detection of violence carries on and is continuously being implemented in the authorities' regular activities. We believe this work to be an example of how joint forces can make a difference for victims of violence.

The struggle against gender violence in Spain: progress and obstacles after 15 years of a specific feminist-inspired legislation

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This communication presents an evaluation on the application of the Spanish Organic Law 1/2004 of Measures of Integral Protection Against Gender Violence which introduced substantial criminal, civil and social reforms. Fifteen years after its enactment, we seek to explore two aspects of the law in a context characterized by neoliberal austerity policies. Firstly, we present the evolution of its implementation from 2005 to 2020, based on statistical data about the criminalization of violence (evolution of complaints, convictions, protection orders, etc.). Secondly, we explore the experiences and subjective perceptions of female victims of gender violence with regard to the penal and family law (this part of the communication is focused on the qualitative research with 20 women interviewed during my PhD thesis). We demonstrate the paradoxes of the implementation of this specific feminist-inspired and avant-gardist law, and the obstacles women face to obtain justice.

HAIP- Hannover's Pro-Active Approach With Male Perpetrators Of Domestic Violence

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In cases of domestic violence, it has long been seen as the victim's responsibility to prevent incidents of violence. Today we know: working with batterers can be an important component of preventing domestic violence. In order to assure that men are being held responsible and know about their options for accessing help, the German city of Hannover is working pro-actively.

In this oral presentation, I will introduce the Hannoverian Intervention Programme (HAIP). Inspired by projects in the United States, it was first established in Hannover in 1997. It has since developed into an extensive network including such agents as courts, the police, resource centers, and others. The programme works in accordance with the Istanbul Convention, which was ratified in Germany in 2017.

The networking institutions are geared toward offering the perpetrators help aimed at ending their violent behavior. The ultimate goal for HAIP is to disrupt and end the violence within the household and protect victims from further assault. Victims get help from women's shelters and resource centers specializing in supporting and strengthening those affected by domestic violence, including children and teenagers, and women affected by forced marriages. High-risk cases are discussed during interdisciplinary case management meetings in order to assure a transparent and safe process of work with the perpetrator while ensuring the victim's safety.

In this oral presentation, I will be giving an overview of the structure and framework of the programme, as well as highlight the impact of a pro-active approach with perpetrators of domestic violence, such as HAIP. Holding men accountable is a necessary focus in order to protect victims- mostly women and children- and make future domestic assaults less likely- which is the ultimate goal in working with batterers.

Happy ever after? Discourse on relationships and intimacy in Icelandic media. A queer perspective.

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The study presented in this paper focuses on the construction of intimate (partner) relationships in public discourse in Iceland by focusing on selected news articles in the media. The research has two goals: Firstly, to understand how affects like trust, love, intimacy, support, and betrayal are used to shape the public discourse on intimate (partner) relationships in general, and secondly to examine how affective discourse is cited to constitute different types of relationships, such as heteronormative relationships, queer relationships, abusive relationships, and open relationships.

The purpose of the research is to analyze how public discourses shape expectations of a “good” relationship and which affects are invoked in the discourse. Attention is also paid to abusive relationships since they are part of the picture. By also focusing on abusive relationships and how they are discursively constructed, information is created that could prove useful for prevention and intervention providers.

Three domestic, non-regional Icelandic news media met the required conditions of having articles with the gender-neutral search word “maki” (spouse) on their homepage which dated back to at least 2010. The year 2010 was chosen since same-sex marriage was legalized in Iceland that year, making them legally as acceptable as heterosexual marriages. That offers neutral conditions to cover relationships and should therefore raise the likelihood of finding more diverse media coverage on relationships.

Data is still being gathered, organized and analyzed but results will be presented at the conference.

Newspaper Representation of Domestic Violence Cases in India During Lockdown

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Newspaper Representation of Domestic Violence Cases in India During Lockdown

Background:

None-in-Three (Ni3) is a transnational mixed-methods research project working towards preventing Gender-based Violence (GBV) by developing prosocial video games for schools. The research focus is: How Indian news media represented cases of domestic violence (DV) during the period of lockdown. Specifically, we sought to examine the extent to which media reports on GBV expressed sensitivity towards victims/survivors.

Method:

News articles were included in the analysis if they reported upon crimes perpetrated against women by men that fell in the category of DV. We selected articles by going through the online news feed for the period between 25th March- 20th October 2020 of two widely read national English newspapers, The Hindu and The Times of India, due to accessibility to online news archives. We included 163 articles after examining the headlines, which were then thematically categorised.

Findings:

Sensationalism

Overdramatisation of violence and disproportionate focus on intimate partner murders led to the exploitation of news for entertainment. Sensationalist framing obscures the social context while highlighting individual incidences, misrepresenting the true nature of GBV.

Victim-Blaming and trivialising impact of DV

The reports engaged in victim-blaming through direct means by highlighting infidelity or suspicion of infidelity by the survivor/victim and indirect means by assigning shared responsibility for DV.

Violence and legitimisation

There was legitimisation of cases of murder-suicide by husband, highlighting financial stress or poor mental health which drove him to take this step.

Recommendations:

News media reform

Researchers should work towards making reporters aware of the impact of using sensationalist language as well as removing agency from perpetrators of DV in their reporting.

State intervention

The state should encourage media houses to take cognisance of the rise in DV cases and enforce strict guidelines for reporting.

Survivors' voices: Active agents in their recovery process in the aftermath of intimate partner violence

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BACKGROUND/AIMS: Recovery from intimate partner violence (IPV) entails diversity in survivors' strategies to cope with the abuse. We aimed at exploring the social context, individual resources, and psychological strategies that survivors actively use during the final stages of their recovery. **METHODS:** Eight Spanish women (age from 33 to 66), who had already taken back control of their lives and were completely recovered, were contacted through snowball procedure. We interviewed them using semi-structural interviews to identify what survivors did to end the relationship and gain autonomy, as well as the obstacles and support they found during this process. The interviews were audio-recorded and transcribed. Data coding and analyses followed grounded-theory principles by identifying discourse patterns and grouping themes into categories. We compared each theme to all the others in the same category using the constant comparative method. **RESULTS:** We identified two main categories of strategies developed in the final stages of recovery. First, the detachment strategies were actions aimed at bringing about a change in women, banishing ideas, people –normally the abuser- and contexts from their lives, enabling them to gain the power of decision and autonomy in their lives. Second, the strategies of empowerment: actions aimed at being, living, and deciding for themselves, increasing their self-esteem and psychological well-being. **CONCLUSIONS:** The narratives revealed diverse actions to release themselves from the violence and start a challenging journey towards independence, experienced differently by each survivor depending on their resources and contextual possibilities. All survivors managed to overcome the traumatic experience responding actively to recover agency and self-control. Since personal and social help are needed to allow a dignified exit from the trauma experienced, the implications of these results refer to psychologists and therapists need to study the interactive events involved in the construction/destruction of women's agency to ease their recovery.

Domestic Violence and Child Custody Proceedings: Children's Voices in Family Evaluations

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Background and purpose of the study: This paper will present findings from a study that investigated children's participation in child custody proceedings in domestic violence cases. This study, funded by the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, was conducted in the Province of Quebec, Canada. This paper will focus on children's voices in family evaluations. **Methods:** Secondary data analysis was conducted on 20 family evaluation reports, which were initially collected through two independent research projects. The first research project looked specifically at family evaluations in domestic violence cases, while the second project investigated parental alienation and domestic violence in child custody and child protection proceedings. Thematic content analysis was conducted using NVivo. **Findings:** Overall, the research findings reveal that children's voices have been marginalized in the family evaluation process, as the evaluators gave little or no consideration to the children's wishes and feelings in their reports. In some cases, children's wishes and feelings have been dismissed and seen as irrational, particularly when the evaluators have concluded that they had been influenced by their mothers' alienating behaviours. The research findings also show that family evaluators tend to interpret what children's needs are with little or no consideration to their perspectives, wishes and feelings. **Conclusions and implications:** These research findings raise important questions regarding family evaluators' understanding of children's experiences in the context of domestic violence, and the place that is given to their voices in this process. The findings will be discussed in relation to children's rights and the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. Recommendations for family evaluators, lawyers and judges will also be presented.

Feasibility of extending the IRIS domestic violence model

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Background

Primary care plays a key role in responding to patients experiencing or perpetrating domestic violence and abuse (DVA) regardless of their gender, age, sexuality, or experience. There is, however, uncertainty about the value and effectiveness of integrated training and support programmes addressing the needs of all patients affected. IRIS is a broadly commissioned, evidence-based primary care training and support programme and is designed to reach female survivors of DVA through general practice. The IRIS+ tested the feasibility of an adaptation of IRIS for all patients affected by DVA, including men and children.

Methods

IRIS+ provides an example of an evidence-based multi-component intervention that has been developed with multi-professional input and has been evaluated for feasibility using mixed methods: secondary data extraction, semi-structured interviews and questionnaires.

Findings

We will present the results from stage 2 of the feasibility study of the reconfigured IRIS+ training and advocacy support programme. Early findings of Stage 2 of the IRIS+ study indicate that the reconfigured IRIS+ intervention is viable in safely and effectively supporting the needs of a broader spectrum of patients, including male victims, children and young people. This paper will explore practice level and contextual factors enhancing and blocking the implementation of the IRIS+ intervention across two sites in England.

Conclusions

The development and testing of IRIS+ highlights the value of feasibility work in establishing the relevance and viability of modified interventions even when they are based on adapted versions of well-established programmes which have evidence of effectiveness in their original form. In a world of evolving complex interventions and rapidly tweaked implementation, decisions on when and how to evaluate adapted designs can have implications for the future of interventions and the outcome of patients.

An integrated education and learning model for frontline domestic violence workers

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This paper explicates a theoretical understanding of how feminist and critical pedagogies provide an approach to education and learning that supports and sustains the domestic violence worker in their role as feminist practitioner and social change actor. The paper builds on findings that were generated through an action research project in which ten domestic violence workers collaborated to generate solutions to the lack of an education and learning framework for their work. Participants identified that a compatible approach to education and learning was that which provides the domestic violence worker with an opportunity to learn as they participate in the life of their organisation and in which they had access to education that served the logic feminist practice throughout the lifetime of their career.

Building on the findings of this group inquiry, I will discuss three theories of learning that provide a theoretical framework for a compatible approach to worker education. Firstly, I foreground feminist pedagogy as a natural “home” for worker education (Manicom, 1992). Secondly, theories of social movement learning illustrate how domestic violence workers learn as they struggle together for a world free from gender based violence and all forms of oppression (Steinklammer, 2012; Zibecchi 2012). Thirdly, community of practice theory elucidates how we learn through participation in practice and how learning is inextricably enmeshed with identity formation and the negotiation of meaning in practice. I argue that as learning and practice are enmeshed, that organisations play a key role in ensuring that what is learnt serves the logic of feminist practice by nurturing feminist communities of practice within them. I propose a model of learning and education that is constructed around the dynamic and coordinated interplay between learning through participation in feminist education, in feminist communities of practice and in a wider social change movement.

Multisector education of professionals involved in response to violence against women and domestic violence - practical implications

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With the aim to improve the multisector response to violence against women and domestic violence in Republic of Srpska, which involved professionals from systems of social welfare, police, health system, judiciary systems, education and non-government organisations, the Gender Centre of Republic of Srpska engaged an expert team from the Department of Social Work of the Faculty of Political Science (University of Banja Luka) to design and implement the program on education of professionals who represent the systems of response to violence against women and domestic violence. This education program was implemented in late 2017, and it was consisted of several moduls, including the evaluation which resulted with adding mentoring support to all professionals and research on the quality of multisector response to violence against women and domestic violence. Mentoring support to local community teams was provided in the period of three years (up to year 2020). In February 2021, the qualitative research was conducted. Inclusion criterion for conducting/participating in the interview was defined in a manner that only professionals that participated in both multisector education and mentoring activities were able to participate in this research. The aim of this research was to determine the practical implications of the multisector education and mentoring activities in the selected local communities, gathering data from the participants being professionals from all response systems involved in protection of violence against women and domestic violence. The Results point on the need for continuing education and support to professionals, as well as improvement of communication within the multisector teams and imperative of involving all professionals regardless the system of response they may be coming from, especially during the current unrepresented times of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and global increase in domestic violence. Key Words: violence against women and domestic violence, multisector teams, professionals

Risks and Needs: What professionals need to know about 3 strategies of women's domestic violence help-seeking

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In published domestic violence strategies there is a tendency to focus on service provision and service responses in place; rather than recognising the extent to which women and children move through places due to domestic abuse. Whilst a woman's help-seeking may be local – if she has the information and resources, and judges it possible to do so – such help-seeking whilst staying put is only one of many strategies tried by women experiencing domestic violence. Women's strategies are often under-recognised and under-respected by the very service providers which should be expected to be supporting women's recovery from abuse. This presentation uses administrative data, which were collected as part of a funding programme, to provide evidence of women's domestic violence help-seeking involving these types of housing-related services in England. More than 180,000 cases of service access over eight years provide evidence of women's three help-seeking strategies in terms of place: Staying Put, Remaining Local, and Going Elsewhere; and the distinctive patterns of service involvement and responses to these strategies. Professionals and service providers – such as Police, Social Workers and Housing as well as Voluntary Sector agencies – typically attempt to assess women's levels of "risk" and "need". However such snapshot assessments in terms of time and place can fail to address the dynamic interplay between women's location strategies and their needs for Safety, Wellbeing and Resettlement. In contrast, this presentation provides evidence that viewing the system from the perspective of what women do provides important insights into leaving abuse as a process – not an event – and highlights the impact of different types of services, their responses in place, and the role of professionals and services to Allow, Enable or Assist women's own strategies.

„StoP“ – Community Matters! Building local networks and cultivating courage to end domestic violence from the bottom up.

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Violence against women is not a private matter – it is rooted in the structure of society, within norms, traditions, gender roles and power imbalances; it affects not only individuals but also communities; it is not a „women only“ issue but a challenge for everyone who values human rights, equality and social justice. StoP is a model developed by Sabine Stövesand, promoting that social work should give attention to the resources of local communities, community change and collective action. StoP is based on community organizing and tries to engage neighborhoods in relationship building, awareness-raising, practical solidarity and interventions to prevent and stop domestic violence. The concept consists of eight steps, which include – among others – the exploration and activation of the local community, the formation of neighborhood action groups and tangible change work in the district. The aim is to form a community, including not only neighbors but also institutional actors such as churches, unionists, politicians and social institutions, who take an active stance against gender based violence while at the same time promoting peaceful relationships. StoP has been successfully implemented in different countries. Various cities in Germany, Austria and Switzerland are working with the model and successfully engage ethnically diverse neighborhoods in action and support networks. We will present the theories behind StoP, highlight its practical approach and share first results of research done as part of a doctorate program (use of qualitative methods). We discuss the transformation of a community where StoP has been applied for many years.

STOP: Innovative neighbourhood project preventing domestic violence

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StoP is a neighbourhood project with the aim of preventing intimate partner and domestic violence. The association AÖF - Autonomous Austrian Women's Shelters has been coordinating StoP since January 1, 2019 in Margareten - the 5th district of Vienna - together with numerous project partners. The project aims at improving neighbourhoods and creating non-violent coexistence by engaging as many people as possible to participate. It focuses on people living in the district ensuring a gender-specific and intersectional approach. Women and children are disproportionately affected by domestic violence and intimate partner violence. The community-oriented project "StoP- Districts without partner violence" starts here. StoP aims to change attitudes so that those affected by violence no longer have to hide out of fear and shame. Neighbours should be strengthened and encouraged to be more careful with one another, to look better and to know what to do when violence is suspected and to have positive effects.

Project goals are to educate, engage, change attitudes, strengthen local community and in the effect prevent domestic violence.

In the course of 2020, a survey has been conducted to activate people living in the district by engaging an exchange about the conditions of living in the district, understanding of violence, as well as responses to violence in the area of living. The survey initiated a discussion with people living in Margareten and allowed deeper interaction which results in activation to the project participation. Results of the survey have been published in January 2021.

In jeopardy - new ways of prevention and support in case of intimate partner violence (IPV) in rural areas

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This talk aims to present early findings of a four-year practical research project funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, which focuses on IPV in rural areas.

The interdisciplinary research project (social sciences, media design and media pedagogy) seeks to develop, test and evaluate innovative ways of primary prevention for a predominantly rural model region.

First, together with four practice partners, we roll out a multi-media, diversity sensitive publicity campaign tailored to the model region to raise awareness and activate civil society. This is essential since IPV is still considered taboo specifically in rural areas. Second, we develop prosocial digital games dealing with IPV, so-called serious games. They will be used, amongst others, during project days at schools. According to "Edutainment", we consider them to be effective in "experiencing" that IPV is not a private but an issue that concerns everyone.

All actions will be evaluated by means of qualitative methods. Thus, the answers to the research questions - which impressions and assessments the target groups get of the campaign and games - can be obtained respecting the project objective of primary prevention: removal of taboos, sensitisation, education and activation regarding the social problem of IPV.

The presentation will focus on insights from our interdisciplinary development of serious games. We would like to discuss the challenging process and the epistemological opportunities of the so-called "System Map", a central method of game design. For our project, the task was to systematize social science research findings on causes, forms, extent and consequences of IPV and the reasons why IPV is considered taboo, especially in rural areas, in order to develop a digital graphical representation. Thus reinforcement effects can be identified that are fundamental to both the narrative of the game and the game mechanics.

Planning victim/survivor's protection - effects of the work of Coordinated Community Response Groups in Belgrade

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Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence in Serbia came into force in June 2017, introducing for the first time Coordinated Community Response Groups (CCRGs), consisted of three key actors – prosecution, police and social service, responsible for planning further protection in all reported incidents of domestic violence and related to domestic violence. Autonomous Women's Centre in cooperation with Republic Ombudsman, conducted quantitative and qualitative research of the work of the 17 CCRGs in Belgrade, through the analyses of the content of the minutes that contained anonymized description of 840 incidents/cases reviewed during CCRGs meetings, together with created individual plans for the protection and support of victims/survivors, in the period of one month (May, 2018). Focus group discussions have also been held with professionals (N=61) from social services in the 17 Belgrade municipalities, to assess their views on the implementation of the Law. Data showed that each CCRG, established within basic prosecution offices with same authorities, acted differently with regard to the number and quality of held meetings, the number of reviewed incidents of violence, the participation of victims/survivors and the participation of representatives of other institutions and women's support organizations in the meetings and during creation of the individual plan for the protection and support, and in monitoring and evaluating effects of planned measures. Based on the research results Special Report of the Ombudsman was issued, with key recommendations addressed to the relevant Ministries and Prosecution Offices, aiming at improving the work of CCRGs. This research will be repeated, in accordance with the same methodology, with the CCRGs located in the second biggest town in Serbia (Niš), with the aim to create manual for the work of CCRGs and perform trainings with professionals included in the work of CCRGs.

One dime threats, the absent present abuser, and technology facilitated support

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The use of technology has become a vital part of people's lives. Mobile phones, smart phones, social media platforms, apps and other internet-connected devices has changed people's way of interacting as well as managing everyday tasks. In this study, we discuss how such technology can be integrated in the lives of women victims of domestic violence. Building on interviews with 18 Swedish women, all abused by their male partner, this study explore digital media use in domestic violence settings. The empirical material shows that technology are used by the perpetrator alongside other abusive behavior to harm the victim, as tactics of coercive control. The perpetrators use digital media to control victims' communication with others, to threat and harass, and to monitor her on- and offline movements. The perpetrator target the victims own digital devices and accounts, and her social network. The results also show that the accessibility digital media offers, enables the abuser to always be present, leading the women to change and reduce her own technology use. However, technology also plays an important part in managing victimization, helping the abused women to monitor perpetrators, store evidence, get information, gain support, and keep in touch with family and friends. Digital media facilitates the reach of domestic abuse at the same time it enables positive means for the victim, creating a double-edged sword.

Technology-assisted abuse within intimate relationships

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There is an established literature base that has examined domestic violence and recognised that this is a complex and harmful form of violence in society. However, the advent and advancements of technology and digital communication tools facilitated by the Internet has created new contexts in which intimate partners can abuse, control and coerce one another. This presentation, based on a chapter in the Routledge International Handbook of Domestic Violence and Abuse, provides an overview of research that has explored the role that technology plays in intimate partner violence (IPV). The presentation explores technology-assisted IPV that occurs within adult romantic relationships and technology-assisted dating violence which occurs within adolescent romantic relationships, hereby known as adolescent dating violence (ADV). The focus of the chapter and presentation is on the nature of technology-assisted IPV/ADV, its prevalence, the role of attachment as a factor that may influence the perpetration of such abusive behaviour, attitudes towards, the impact of, and the extent of help-seeking for experiences of technology-assisted IPV/ADV. Where present, attention is also given to the ways in which technology may be used as a method of intervention for victims of technology-assisted IPV/ADV. Gender differences in the experience and impact of technology-assisted IPV/ADV will be discussed where such information is reported. Finally, consideration is given for the implications of the findings from this summary of the literature for policy, practice and future research.

Enabling Effective Probation Practice Using Complementary Digital Media

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In this presentation, Jason Morris will discuss opportunities that technology offers probation practitioners in supporting the desistance of people with Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) offences. The Skills for Relationships Toolkit (SRT) is a set of structured exercises designed to enable Probation Practitioners in England and Wales to structure supervision sessions. SRT's aims and content are informed by the accredited Building Better Relationships (BBR) programme. SRT was piloted as 25 exercises with accompanying practitioner guidance; digital media clips; participant worksheets; and, between-session tasks. SRT has a mandatory foundation component followed by 'needs-led' modules relating to: thinking; emotions; and, relationships.

The SRT pilot evaluation found that practitioners and the people they supervised perceived SRT to have a positive impact on working alliances. The Complementary Digital Media (CDM) clips that made up SRT helped break-the-ice by using stories and voices of experts-by-experience to introduce skills and concepts. The potential to personalise supervision through the use of SRT was a key advantage. SRT enabled practitioners to respond to the specific interests and needs of participants as well as prioritising relevant content to focus on 'live' issues.

The research also identified challenges. Firstly, not all participants could relate to the narratives presented in the content and some called for more diversity in the user stories reflected in the content. Secondly, some practitioners were slow to adopt SRT. Finally, some technological barriers were encountered (e.g., wifi blackspots) which impacted negatively on the flow of sessions.

The findings of the research add weight to three conclusions regarding digitally-enabled approaches to supporting desistance. Firstly, digital services should complement, not replace, the core probation values and practices; secondly, people seeking to desist are an asset to service design; and finally, flexible digital toolkits can promote holistic support for people on probation.

Voices from Behind Closed Doors: Participatory Filmmaking Inside a Refuge for Survivors of Domestic Abuse

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Coercive control was criminalised under section 76 of the Serious Crime Act in 2015, yet there is reported evidence of a residual lack of understanding and underestimation within the police of the significance of coercive control present in cases of Domestic Abuse (HMIC 2015) (Myhill and Johnson 2016). Statistical analysis of police response has found that there have been missed opportunities for recognising and taking action against coercive control, and particularly low 'solved' rates of 16% (Barlow, Johnson and Walklate 2020). The aim of this practice-based study is to provide a space for residents of a women's refuge, to articulate what their expectations and experiences were across the different stages in their help-seeking. The methodology of participatory video is applied as a means of exploring ways of making visible and audible the impacts of coercive control which are most easily and/or frequently missed by officers. The primary research question asks; how might participatory film-making help to bridge the gap between police perception and survivor experiences of coercive control?

Participant image-making ultimately seeks to cede power to the participants over what is communicated, and how (Kindon et al., 2007; Pain et al., 2011). Participant-created video can also be said to function as an indirect bridge between communities, to 'catalyse and mediate exchange' (Shaw 2017). The resulting artefact will be a potentially valuable material to be drawn on in police training, identifying potential opportunities for positive police action within the complex trajectories of help-seeking. The central objective however is to prioritise the process of film-making; the emphasis is on the transformatory potential for the women involved. In this paper, I will discuss the implications of engaging survivors of Domestic Abuse in participant-led filmmaking, addressing notions of power and control in this context.

Jigsaw - a trauma informed programme for women leaving crisis

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Jigsaw is a bespoke, innovative programme, aimed at providing support to women leaving crisis, particularly developing their parenting skills and confidence.

Co-designed with practitioners and service users, works alongside existing programmes used by statutory services, ensuring co-ordinated approach to support. The programme compliments the NI Stopping Domestic & Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy pulling together the support strand, with prevention, early intervention and protection and justice strands.

Jigsaw has been designed to be trauma informed, focusing on “What’s happened to you” rather than “What’s wrong with you”. It recognises the survival strategies that survivors implement and looks at their strengths and abilities. The ethos of the programme is ensuring the safety and well-being of any children is a shared priority. Recognising that the most effective way to protect a child is through building up the ability of its mother to be part of that protective environment. Jigsaw works collaboratively with women and practitioners to understand the impact that trauma has had on their lives and decision making. It encourages reflective practice by practitioners, enabling them to learn and grow from experience of using the programme and to heighten the critical positive aspects of their ongoing trauma informed work.

Jigsaw recognises, addressing what has happened, is happening and may happen is challenging for all, particularly a woman and her children, whatever stage they are at. The programme activities are designed specifically to respond to these circumstances with a positive perspective of the woman and her children and a commitment to enabling an increasing environment of safety and well-being for all. All resources and activities can be used individually or in a group setting.

Feedback has been extremely positive with practitioners stating it has become integral to their work. Service users felt better able to understand their choices, costs and consequences.

The coMforT feasibility trial of a trauma-specific mindfulness intervention for women survivors of domestic violence with post-traumatic stress disorder

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Background. Women survivors of domestic violence and abuse (DVA) are seven times more likely to develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) than other women. Although evidence-based psychological interventions for PTSD are effective, attrition rates are high due to the exposure work content. We developed a trauma-specific mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (TS-MBCT) course without exposure work and plan to test it in a randomised clinical trial (RCT). This study aimed at establishing the feasibility of the definitive trial.

Methods. A feasibility RCT with pre-specified progression criteria and a traffic light system. Embedded health economics evaluation and mixed-methods process evaluation. Survivors with PTSD were recruited from a DVA agency and randomised 2:1 to receive TS-MBCT or self-referral to psychological therapies on the National Health Service. We evaluated recruitment and retention rates and the acceptability of the intervention and trial design.

Findings. We met 6 of our 7 progression criteria at the green level, and one, recruitment, at amber. In total, 109 DVA survivors were referred to the study. We screened 85 and recruited 20 (18%). The recruitment ratio was below the target of 30%. Survivor's readiness to engage with a psychological intervention and group schedule were the main factors behind the low recruitment ratio. Survivors suggested extending recruitment to other DVA agencies and general practices, community midwives and social workers. Intervention acceptability, uptake and retention were high. The follow up rate was 75%, and these participants completed all their assessments.

Conclusions. It is feasible to conduct a definitive trial of TS-MBCT. Recruitment sites should include multiple DVA agencies and NHS settings to identify enough DVA survivors who are ready to engage with psychological treatment. If found effective and cost-effective, coMforT mindfulness course can be a treatment of choice and/or an adjunct to existing evidence-based psychological therapies for post-traumatic stress.

Attending an Anti-violence center: women's characteristics, types of violence and intensity of the relationship with the Center

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Background and purpose of the study

The Anti-Violence Centre (AVC) GOAP (Trieste, Italy), running from 1999, has helped in these years 4691 women.

The purpose of the study is to analyse the intensity of the relation of women with the AVC to better understand women's pathways out of violence and to indirectly evaluate AVC work.

Methods

Since 2009, GOAP collected in electronic form women's data (socio-demographics, violence, meetings characteristics and actions performed). From 2009 to 2017, 3349 women approached the AVC. The study sample included the 1852 women who had at least one meeting with the advocates. Aims of the analysis were to evaluate women's relationship with the AVC, assessed with the number of meetings, in the 4 years following the first contact, according to women's socio-demographic characteristics and the type of violence suffered.

Findings

The number of meetings ranged from 1 to 57; 54% of women attended between 2 and 10 meetings. As for women's characteristics: 35% were 36-45 years old; 56% were employed; 71% were Italian. Psychological violence were reported in 93% of cases, physical in 71%, economical in 53%, sexual violence or abuse in 20% and stalking in 32% of cases. In 83% of cases women reported intimate partner violence.

Preliminary results indicate that women and violence characteristics are associated with their pathways in the AVC. Results will be precious to better understand the process of women's liberation from violence and to indirectly evaluate AVC's work. This analysis is the first carried out on this topic in Italy, and one of the few available internationally. In the future, other AVC could use this model and carry out similar evaluations.

Exploring the experiences of domestic abuse survivors working in the field of domestic abuse support: assisting recovery or re-victimisation revisited?

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This presentation considers the experience of women who act as domestic abuse support workers or peer mentors and the impact on them, both positive and negative, of undertaking such demanding work with lived experience of domestic abuse themselves.

This study considers the voice of women survivors working in the field of domestic abuse support work, affording them the opportunity to explore the benefits and the costs to them personally. Twelve women survivor support workers from five distinct organisations in England took part in this research.

Semi structured, qualitative interviews were undertaken then analysed thematically within a feminist paradigm. Findings indicate that there are both highly positive aspects for survivors of abuse working in the domestic abuse sector, and equally, that there are areas of risk where re-victimisation and vicarious trauma could occur.

Findings:

- The benefits to both survivor support worker and to the women clients can be powerful within the domestic violence support sector.
- Survivor support workers can gain a sense of self- actualisation, esteem and belonging when working in the domestic abuse support sector. This can serve to empower women and reinforce their personal sense of survival.
- There can be a risk of re-victimisation to the support worker, particularly where appropriate clinical supervisory support is not provided.

Conclusion: This research has implications for practice and for further research beyond this study. In using their own lived experience as a source of knowledge, a survivor support worker can enhance her own sense of self-worth, using her past experience positively to add to her own process of recovery and self-actualisation. The implications for practice include the need for an open recognition of lived experience and appropriate supportive supervision to negate the inherent risks connected when considering lived experience of abuse and working as a practitioner with other individuals surviving domestic violence.

Exploring strategies used by victims of Intimate Partner Violence to increase their sense of safety whilst in abusive relationships

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Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), a significant societal problem, affects individuals worldwide. However, the strategies victims use to keep safe are under-researched. IPV is significantly under-reported, and services often are not able to be accessed by all victims, thus they are likely to use their own strategies to manage their victimisation, before being able to seek support. Two studies were completed to understand these strategies. A systematic review of the literature and study completed with professionals who work with victims was undertaken to understand this area. In study one, a systematic review of the literature (n=61 papers), were analysed using Thematic Analysis. The results indicated that victims use a large array of behaviours to increase their sense of safety and coping with emotions, but also experience significant barriers to help-seeking. In study 2, sixty-nine professionals completed a measure exploring the likelihood and effectiveness of various victim strategies, regarding increasing their sense of safety. Strategies included in the measure were obtained from those identified in study 1. Findings indicated that professionals perceived victims of IPV to be more likely to employ safety strategies and coping behaviours that may be ineffective, but not help-seeking behaviours. Further, the responses were analysed using Cluster Analysis. Safety strategies resulted in five clusters; perpetrator directed strategies, prevention strategies, cognitive reappraisal, safety planning and avoidance strategies. Help-Seeking resulted in six clusters; information or practical support, abuse related support, emotional support, secondary support and informal support. Finally, coping resulted in four clusters; emotional coping, self-directed coping, thought recording/change and cognitive coping. Both studies indicate that victims may use a variety of strategies to manage their safety, besides seeking help. Professionals working with victims, using a strength-based approach, should understand what is used, and is effective for victims, who are unable to leave the relationships or access external support.

'Do you see me?' Challenging the public story of domestic abuse using co-production

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Domestic abuse can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or sexual orientation. However, older victim-survivors of domestic abuse are ignored and overlooked in research, policy and practice (Wydall and Zerk, 2017). When considering the intersections of age and sexuality, older LGBTQ+ victim-survivors are further invisible, falling outside of the 'public story' of domestic abuse – white, heterosexual, middle class females with children (Donovan and Hester, 2014). The paper will present findings from a qualitative study examining domestic abuse from the 'lived experiences' of 14 older LGBTQ+ victim-survivors. Adopting a thematic analysis approach, the findings will present new insights into victimisation experiences within the context of ageing and sexuality.

Victims stories will be supported by a short film co-produced with the LGBTQ+ community. Co-production is an approach that is value-driven and built on the principle that those who are affected by a problem are best placed to help address it. The findings will demonstrate how co-production enabled the research outputs to counter-hegemonic approaches to knowledge construction in oppressed communities by challenging the dominant narrative of domestic abuse. The paper will conclude with a discussion on how future research and practice can better collaborate with marginalised groups to achieve meaningful outcomes.

All About ME! - a multimodal ethnography of children's everyday lives

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This paper explores the everyday lives of children. There is significant literature about domestic abuse and children, but very few studies have been conducted with children themselves (Callaghan, Fellin and Alexander, 2017). Even when research has been carried out with children there is little exploration beyond the remit of their domestic abuse experiences. We know very little about their everyday lives, dreams, aspirations and how the different forms of prejudice and inequality intersects, impacts and magnify their experience of abuse and austerity. My research explores how children make sense of their lives.

Using multimodal ethnography this paper attends to the everyday lives of children who have experienced domestic abuse and social care interventions. The knowledge for the research is being created with children using a multimodal ethnography method. The children have all experienced domestic abuse and a form of social care intervention. Methods that are being used to explore children's lives include; walking, playing, talking, writing, photography, participation observation, using digital and in person methods. The methodology is based upon the Connectors Study (Nolas et al., 2017; 2018; Varvantakis and Nolas, 2019; Varvantakis et al., 2019) .

The research foregrounds children's knowledge and experience of their lives, and uses a multimodal method to enable children to express themselves in verbal and non-verbal ways. The paper demonstrates how in paying close attention to the mundane practices and materiality of everyday life, we can experience how children make sense of their lives and experiences, resulting in children creating knowledge about themselves that is beyond the constraints of domestic abuse and adversity.

Relational ambivalence and consistency. Response networks in domestic violence.

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Social support is a crucial factor in mediating or moderating the impact of domestic violence. However, the very term of support has recently been challenged, as it suggests that support is intrinsically positive. Research has thus focused on negative aspects of support, i.e., criticism or victim blaming, and the focus shifted toward the multifaceted reactions of the response networks.

In this paper we propose to move from the concept of support to the one of relational ambivalence and consistency. Based on a mixed method social network study of 19 women victim of domestic abuse in Sweden, we show how response networks are better conceptualised in terms of consistent or ambivalent reactions. In our study, women obtain support from people whom they may expect, but also from people who may surprise them; likewise, they experience lack of support from people they would expect help, but equally from people they know wouldn't cope with the situation.

Using thematic analysis of qualitative interviews, we first propose a typology of consistent supportive, consistent non-supportive, ambivalent supportive and ambivalent non-supportive relationships. We then use multilevel logistic regression to model ambivalent and consistent relationships against relational roles and dynamics, to see if ambivalence and consistency are more prevalent, for example, in family or friendship relationships, or in strong or weak relationships.

Results indicate that consistent relationships are predominantly the ones to people to which the victim disclose the violence, and therefore can act consistently in providing support over time. Ambivalence is more prevalent instead in the responses of older people, indicating potential generational gaps in understanding and reacting to domestic violence.

Our study provides a more granular understanding of how social support may enact in cases of domestic violence, which can be taken into account when planning long term and sustainable interventions to assist victims.

Violence in an Intimate Relationship and the Sexual Life

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This research aimed to understand the psychological determinants of the quality of sexual life in the context of violence in a close relationship. This is a somewhat surprising finding in light of the recognised extent of violence in close relationships in Poland. Many people decide to stay in a relationship despite having experienced violence and even choose not to reveal the experience. An attempt has therefore been made to investigate how the violence experienced or committed in a relationship correlates with the quality of sexual life.

Test method: Questionnaires on the following topics were used in the research:

1. Sexual satisfaction
2. Psychophysical attractiveness
3. Sexual practices
4. Motives for making sexual contacts
5. Experiencing or committing violence in a close relationship

Study group:

The study examined 176 people . The survey results indicate that:

1. The level of satisfaction with sexual life was similar for the victims and the perpetrators. The conducted research allowed for the creation of a model of the sexual functioning of relationships in which there is violence.

A) both the perpetrator and the victim are focused on satisfying the perpetrator in sexual practices

B) Both the victims and the perpetrators declare dissatisfaction with the relationship and sexual dissatisfaction.

C) In the research, there was a clear tendency in people who had a strong sense of being a victim to focus in sexual practices on the partner with a strong sense of being the perpetrator.

E) People with a strong sense of being the perpetrator are also very self-centered. It manifests itself most clearly in variables such as self-esteem of psychophysical attractiveness. Research shows that the perpetrators' self-esteem is negative, as is self-pleasure in sexual practices.

The remaining conclusions on the other dimensions of the quality of sexual life provide valuable material for a deeper discussion.

Comebackpower of a narcissist survivor

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I would like to share my observations on narcissistic abuse and on the comeback power of the survivor.

I will try to explain what happens along the way in such a relationship, and how this could happen to anyone without concern of gender, race, level of education, position etc.

It all starts with charm and a good connection, but then slowly turns into something else...

The growing anger, suspicion, stalking, controlled actions, and emotional/economical/physical violence etc from the narcissist, leads to confusion, despair, depression, diffuse health troubles, feeling of shame and guilt with the victim.

Later, when the victim starts telling their story, they will often be met with distrust both from friends, family and professionals.

“It can’t be that bad?”, or “Why didn’t you just leave?” are common questions.

If you are in a relationship with a narcissist, you can’t just leave, -or can you? The safety has to be considered from several perspectives.

According to law /international declarations professionals are obliged to take action. The distinction between the professional’s obligation to report the case, and the victim’s need of silence until f.ex. the escape plan is quality checked is an interesting theme.

These cases are often very delicate, and it is of great importance to consider “all” sides of possible responses from the narcissist, even to consider a worst-case scenario.

The narcissists in court is another interesting subject. This is also relevant when it comes to considering the validity of given proof (and lies) in court.

In my discussion of the comeback power of the survivor, I will give advice on possible ways to regain self-worth, and on how to rebuild your self-feeling, health and life.

Development and application of multicontextual opportunity theory to the experience of intimate partner violence in the developing world

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The current study developed multicontextual opportunity theory within a gender asymmetry framework to better understand the experience of intimate partner violence among married women in the developing world. Core components of the multi-level theory – exposure to motivated offenders, target suitability, and capable guardianship – are conceptualized in regard to the unique dynamics of intimate partner violence at both the individual-level and the country-level. Emphasis was given to the human element of the guardianship concept at the individual-level. Mixed effects logistic regression then tested the extension of the theory on a sample of married women (N = 239,554) in developing nations (N = 41). Findings reveal opportunity is indeed related to the experience of intimate partner violence in the developing world, demonstrating the generalizability of the theory to a crime that disproportionately impacts women and to contexts that are different from opportunity structures in the developed world. Furthermore, national-level factors moderated the influence of individual-level opportunity measures. This has implications for the development of country-specific prevention and intervention programming for intimate partner violence.

A common approach to animal abuse and domestic violence? Attitudes towards collaboration between professionals in the animal sector and domestic violence services in Groningen (the Netherlands).

Downes Róisín¹

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The present study investigated the connection between domestic violence and animal abuse, focussing specifically on the options for collaboration between professionals in tackling the issue.

Domestic violence and animal abuse occur simultaneously within families; it unclear however how often these two forms of violence co-occur. Animal abuse occurs for instance as a way to coerce and control (ex-)partners and to silence victims of child abuse. Victims of domestic violence with pet animals postpone their escape on average by 52 weeks because of inadequate shelters, causing the violence to persist unnecessarily longer.

Many cases are left unattended because professionals are not aware of signals of abuse. Earlier discovery is possible when professionals from both sectors collaborate and improve their skills to recognize, offer help and tackle either form of violence. Currently, collaboration and awareness is lacking in Groningen in the Netherlands, which led to the execution of this study, commissioned by Veilig Thuis, the Dutch domestic violence service organisation. Data were collected among (n=16) (para)veterinaries and (n=32) Veilig Thuis employees working in Groningen, to investigate their attitudes towards the issue and a concerted approach.

Results show that collaboration is possible in several working phases of Veilig Thuis; identifying violence, reporting, registration, screening, risk-taxation and developing safety plans, support and recovery plans. Research further reveals that professionals from both sectors are generally positive towards collaboration. Lack of knowledge and skills in effectively dealing with violence seems to be an issue, rather than a lack of knowledge about the topic itself. Promoting expertise through training is an important first step, together with spreading information among victims, perpetrators and bystanders. It is advised to form coalitions between Veilig Thuis and animal services. It is necessary to promote exchange of advice between professionals and to utilise existing structures to tackle domestic violence and animal abuse.

Movie: Behind the door of a women shelter

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For many years, the women's shelters have operated in secret with great integrity, which in recent years has become visible, among other things, as the understanding of the women's shelters' activities has been reduced to simply being a sheltered accommodation. In step with changes in society regarding men's violence against women, a knowledge gap regarding the activities of women's shelters has thus become visible. Roks sees that this results in reduced and withdrawn financial resources and private actors who, without knowledge of men's violence against women, open sheltered housing. In the long run, this means dismantling the movement that has carried knowledge of and protection and support for women exposed to men's violence for over 40 years. Based on this, Roks is keen to contribute to knowledge-raising projects as a national organization to counteract this development. Roks sees that producing a film on the theme "Behind the door" at a women's shelter can contribute to increased knowledge of the women's shelters' daily work and thereby make visible the difference between the activities of the non-profit women's shelters and the increasing number of private actors in the field.

The purpose of the film is to spread knowledge about the activities of women's shelters to both the general public and decision - makers. The film will also be able to be used for the purpose of making visible what is required to start a women's shelter. In this way, the film 'Behind the Door' has a broad target group and a three-part purpose, knowledge among the public, advocacy work towards politicians and inspiration and knowledge for women and girls who want to start a Women's Shelter, nationally and internationally.

Roks wishes to show this film at the conference.

Misogyny in the Biographies of Mass Murderers: The elephant in the room

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This paper argues for a new approach to making sense of mass murder, emphasising the urgency of recognising the proliferation and significance of misogyny and domestic violence among perpetrators of this type of homicide. It is vital that scholarship recognises the political-economy of neoliberal patriarchy and seeks to better understand how harmful subjectivity develops in this context.

The paper highlights the lack of attention to misogyny in the existing literature on mass murder and draws attention to the significance of misogynistic ideology in a sample of cases - including the Isla Vista murders and the Portapique killings.

The paper emphasises the importance of the political-economic, social and cultural context within which these harms occur. Massacres do not emerge in a vacuum. Mass murders are neither simply the product of individual pathology nor the inevitable outcome of structural forces. Both play a role. It is important that we adopt a new perspective that enables both agency and structure to form part of our understanding. If we are to identify and tackle the drivers of mass murder, we must explore how harmful subjectivity develops within the context of neoliberal consumer capitalism.

As such, the paper proposes a new multi-level framework for the analysis of mass murder and issues a call to action for a global programme of independent qualitative research and feminist activism to tackle its drivers, prevent further harm and save lives.

Challenging Gender-Based Violence Through Transnational Creative Responses: #MeToo, Empowerment and the Arts

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Background/Purpose:

In this study, I examine ways in which artists have responded to the #MeToo movement in locations around the globe. Through intersectional and transnational lenses, I investigate creative responses toward ending gender-related violence. The artistic expressions and reactions through the #MeToo movement, not only answer to a call for disclosure of gender-related hostilities but, also, illustrate the plethora of acts of sexual aggression that women suffer within various cultural geographies. The purpose of this study is to provide a resource of cultural production that encourages wakefulness of researchers, educators, and activists to the particular contexts and strategies artists use to stop gender-based violence.

Methods:

Using a feminist mapping methodology to contextualize artmaking activities that challenge patriarchal and oppressive viewpoints of women, in this study I examine ways in which artists have responded to the #MeToo movement in locations around the globe. Derived from scholarly articles, digital newspapers, Facebook, Instagram and personal interviews, the 8 artists that I selected for this study demonstrate situated creative reactions to the #MeToo movement, highlighting the prevalence and particularities of harassment, domestic violence, rape and femicide in many regions of the globe.

Findings:

Artists respond to the #MeToo movement pedagogically, therapeutically, and for personal catharsis. In some contexts, artists responses to #MeToo requires a cautious approach and consideration of the diversity of the country. Due to the movement's U.S. origins, #MeToo tends to work in favor of those who already come from a place of privilege. Despite the potency of the #MeToo movement, many countries have made fervent efforts to suppress and expurgate its existence

Conclusions:

As scholars consider the future implications of the #MeToo movement within the arts and pedagogy, it is essential to explore and illuminate the role of art as a storyteller and many artists' specific intentions toward public education.

Supporting Christian Women Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence: Clergy Experiences

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Supporting Christian Women Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence: Clergy Experiences

Introduction

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a growing global public health problem. Studies have shown that IPV affects Christian women and their ability to seek support and safety can be influenced by their Christian beliefs and practices (Aunes and Gilles, 2018; Potter, 2007). Christian survivors of IPV use clergy as formal and informal support. Clergy knowledge of IPV and theological perspective will shape the support they provide to Christian women who have experienced IPV.

Researchers have explored the experiences of clergy in supporting Christian women survivors of IPV (Houston-Kolnik, Todd and Greeson, 2019; Dyer, 2016; Peterson, 2009). However, there is a gap in research on the experiences of clergy from diverse races and denominations supporting Christian women survivors in England. In addressing this gap, this study explores the experiences of Pentecostal, Baptist and Catholic clergy supporting Christian women survivors of IPV in England.

Methods: This study utilised an Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) approach to explore the experiences of 12 purposefully selected clergy. Non-contact interviews were conducted via zoom and by telephone. The interviews were audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim, and analysed using IPA.

Preliminary findings: The following five themes emerged from the narratives: the complicated web of IPV, individual personality, Christianity and culture; supporting through individual, conjoint and family counselling, and referral to secular services; the desire for training on IPV and to work in collaboration with secular service providers.

Conclusion: The findings highlight the vital role clergy play in supporting Christian women who have experienced IPV. Therefore, they need to be included in the interdisciplinary community coordinated response team on IPV, have active education and also build reciprocal pathways for them to feed their knowledge back to the team.

Keywords: Clergy, pastor, intimate partner violence, domestic violence, domestic abuse

Fatherhood in the Icelandic mass media: Neo-liberal discourses on fathers and gender equality

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Fathers who use their parental leave and are active in childcare are often presented as a corner stone of gender equality in the Nordic countries. This paper is a contribution to the ongoing theoretical discussion around discourses on fathers in a Nordic context. By using a Foucauldian discourse analysis on the fathering discourses in Icelandic mass media from 2008-2018, this paper explores how social beliefs about men and fatherhood are constituted in the media discourses of fathers. We identified that the media discourses around fathers and fatherhood are infused by a neo-liberal ideology which present involved fathers as a norm and the desire to become a good father as unifying for all males. Deviation from the normalized image of Iceland as a progressive and gender equal society is linked to individuals in the media. Minority fathers are portrayed as the 'unusual' others? Irresponsible behavior is furthermore displayed as an individual choice and thus, individual failure. Since the failure is tied to their behavior, they it does not define their identity and they have a possibility to transform. However, violence is presented as a characteristic of individual fathers that are stigmatized as violent.

The social and legal context of domestic violence in Romania

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Abstract— The paper tackles domestic violence, one of the most important problems of the Romanian society. Since the country is mostly patriarchal the normalization of domestic violence expands from one generation to another. This behavioral pattern is rooted in financial difficulties, educational gaps, patriarchal views on gender roles and stereotypes and the overwhelming traditionalism of the Romanian Orthodox Church. Moreover, the social aspects are mirrored by the insufficient legal sanctions and policies related to domestic violence. The third aspect of the problem refers to the refusal of the victims to tackle their situation. The purpose of this paper is to identify what generates domestic violence and the methods of putting an end to these behaviors in the Romanian society.

Keywords— domestic violence, patriarchy, gender roles, legislation

FROM 'NO MEANS NO' TO '#METOO' : The evolution of feminist ideology and activism and its impact on the prevalence of rape and sexual violence amongst women at university

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This paper studies the evolution of feminist activism and discourse and its impact on the prevalence of sexual violence within universities in the United Kingdom. This is investigated through an integrative literature review, utilising content analysis to analyse the data from journals, academic studies and government reports. Efforts have been made to avoid bias in this analysis. The paper retains a focus on male to female violence as statistics and research shows that women are disproportionately impacted by sexual violence. The literature exposes lad culture as key in the perpetuation of sexual violence in universities and also discusses the technique of storytelling to break the stigma attached to being a sexual assault survivor that is created by rape myths and victim blaming.

Factors behind running away from the Hungarian child protection system: violence, abuse and prostitution in youngsters' life history

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In Hungary the number of children and young adults living in the child protection system is high, circa 23000 children live in the care system: 33% in institutional care, while 67% in the foster care system. In Hungary the total number of runaway children was 4,828 (Hungarian Central Statistical Office 2016), a third of them girls. Runaway is the highest from children's homes or apartment homes. The research is based on complex methodology and the focus is on the effects and symptoms of the runaway phenomenon from children's homes and from foster families. The goal of the research is to understand and analyse the causes of this phenomenon and find solving methods to decrease runaway from the child protection system. The presentation reflects how children, youth and child protection professionals interpret the problem and what kind of preventive and reactive methods exist in the Hungarian public child protection system. The results show that both form of the violence, – violence in the birth family and violence under the care period in the child protection system – physical, emotional, sexual abuse and forced prostitution is everyday experience of children and young adults with public care background. Running away is a false solution to handle the problem: escape from risky childhood to risky adulthood.

Keywords: runaway, violence, abuse, prostitution, preventive and reactive solutions

(Andrea Rácz participates in a research project which focus is social solidarity related the working mechanism of the Hungarian child protection system. (Domonkos Sik: Solidarity in Late Modernity, OTKA Young Researcher Fellowship).

Gender-based violence in youth intimate partners – Evidence from Albania

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A growing body of research confirms that dating violence/youth intimate partner violence (youth IPV) constitutes a public health and societal issue important to combat. Large numbers of young people are subjected to violence within their romantic relationships. Studies show that the consequences of such victimization can be severe. Unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime, as young people do not perceive certain behaviors as violent ones. However, these behaviors can become abusive and develop into more serious forms of violence. Moreover, sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence are important problems that have an enormous and long term physical and mental health impact on victims. The increased use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the past decade has led to the rise of a new form of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Due to the escalating use of technology and the internet, girls and women are more vulnerable than ever to abuse and violence. Women face multiple forms of technology-related violence including non-consensual intimate images (NCII) commonly known as “revenge pornography”, doxing, blackmail, bullying, stalking, and sexual harassment. This research provides evidence and insight into understanding the gendered nature of the incidence of intimate partner violence among youth in Albania.

Preventing Child Maltreatment in Europe: the ERICA Training Program and Risk Assessment Mobile App

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Background. Although child maltreatment has been extensively studied, research evidence has often not been sufficiently utilized in designing programs to prevent and reduce maltreatment. Legislation and cultural attitudes to maltreatment vary from one country to the next, in spite of the fact that the WHO has set clear targets for preventing child maltreatment.

Aim. ERICA, an EU -funded, multidisciplinary research project in six European countries (Finland, France, Italy, Germany, Poland, the United Kingdom) aims to improve this situation by developing a research-based European, multidisciplinary, freely available online training program on risk assessment, identification and prevention of child maltreatment. It will also develop a mobile application, the “Family Needs Checklist”, for professionals and parents, based on research evidence to assess the risk of maltreatment and facilitate discussion with parents about their situation.

Methods. As a basis for building the training program and developing the mobile application, a systematic search of databases was conducted on 1) risk conditions for maltreatment, 2) risk assessment tools and 3) families’ experiences with child protection services. A survey with professionals across Europe then investigated their point of view on what kind of information they needed to be able to better assess and identify the risk of maltreatment in families.

Findings. Professionals clearly need ongoing training in almost all areas concerning preventing child maltreatment in families. Although risk assessment tools have been developed, they often do not take into account a sufficiently holistic approach. Families often experience stigma and fear and are afraid of discussing these questions with professionals.

Conclusions & Implications. Both parents and professionals in different fields have clear and significant role to play in preventing and reducing child maltreatment. It is important to harmonize the European dimension on this question and to establish common guidelines for preventing child maltreatment and thus improving children's well-being.

Girls, Gangs and Coercive Control.

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This paper explores the topic of young women and girls' participation in gangs. Through qualitative interviews (n=21) and focus groups with professionals (n=37) who work with women and girls in gangs, this study found that the relative invisibility of females in gangs hides their vulnerability and exploitation. This invisibility is attractive to gangs who need to stay below police radar to advance their economic interests in 'County Lines' drug sales. This research shows gangs maintain control over women and girls through threatened and actual physical and/or sexual violence and economic abuse known as debt bondage. This paper argues that coercive control offers a new way of understanding and responding to females' experiences in the gang.

My body belongs to me - in kindergarten

Vold Silje¹

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How can we give young children age-appropriate information about their right to be protected and about sexual abuse? What are the barriers that stop adults from talking to children about these topics? What tools and guidance can help adults overcome these barriers?

In 2017, Save the Children Norway cooperated with the production company Bivrost Film and NRK Super, the Norwegian public broadcaster's channel for children, in making an animation series to inform children about bodies, boundaries and sexual abuse. The series was shown on children's TV, made available on digital platforms and widely used in primary schools with children age 6-10. The series has been praised for communicating a serious topic in a clear, engaging, and non-frightening way to children, and has been nominated to and won several awards.

In response to a demand from kindergartens, Save the Children Norway in 2020 launched the toolkit "My body belongs to me – in kindergartens", with conversation cards to be used with children ag 4-6, and a guidance booklet for kindergarten teachers.

This oral presentation will go through the process of developing and testing the toolkit for younger children, present lessons learnt as well as feedback from kindergartens who have used the toolkit during the first year of its implementation.

Impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on the home lives of women from ethnic minority communities in the UK

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It is known that crises, including health emergencies, further compound gender-based power dynamics and underlying inequalities in socio-economic and health systems, thus exacerbating violence against women, particularly when quarantine is involved (Bellizzi et al., 2020). The current COVID-19 pandemic has been no different. UN Women argue that violence against women is a 'shadow pandemic' to the novel coronavirus. During the earlier COVID-19 lockdowns in the UK, it has been reported that rates of domestic violence increased due to mandatory social isolation imposed on citizens, which exposed many women to increased contact with their cohabiting perpetrator. Domestic abuse continues to affect victims in comparable ways but there is also evidence to suggest that those from the minority background are disproportionately impacted by domestic abuse (Gill, 2009). BAME people have a unique set of needs and cultural background which shapes the way in which they experience and respond to abuse. However, the needs and challenges of survivors from the BAME communities, especially with respect to domestic abuse experiences during the pandemic, are understudied. The present study aims to address this gap by understanding how these intersecting identities of gender, race and ethnicity compound the experiences of abuse of women within ethnic minority communities. The objective is to explore the impact of the present lockdown on Black and minoritised women in the UK. An online survey using snowball sampling technique will be used to collect data from women from the Black, Asian and Mixed ethnic groups (n=2346) in the UK. Results from the study will help to identify various patterns of reporting domestic abuse, barriers to help seeking, impact on women's mental health and well-being and role of social norms in influencing behaviour. It is essential to have response frameworks informed by such research since it is unlikely to be the last pandemic.

Polyvictimization and depression in hospitalized older adults

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Background and purpose of the study

Polyvictimization, to be exposed to several types of abuse or being exposed to abuse on several occasions, has lately been recognized as an important risk factor for psychological ill-health. However, in elder abuse research this phenomenon is just beginning to be understood. The purpose of this study is therefore to estimate the prevalence of lifetime polyvictimization, and to investigate if lifetime polyvictimization is associated with depression in hospitalized older adults.

Methods

Participants over the age of 65 admitted to an acute care hospital ward were recruited consecutively. Exposure to abuse throughout life was assessed with a semi-structured interview where the participant was classified as non-victim, single victim or polyvictim. Depression was measured with past 10-year depression diagnosis from medical records, current prescription of anti-depressant drugs, and a self-administered depression scale PHQ-9 (Patient Health Questionnaire 9). For these three outcomes, logistic regression models were performed, adjusted for age, sex, ADL (activities of daily living) function and educational level.

Findings

Of 307 approached, 135 participants were interviewed (response rate 44 %). Mean age was 81 years and 54 % were women. Lifetime prevalence for abuse was 41 % (n=55), and 56 % (n=31) of these were polyvictims. Polyvictims (women n=22, 73%) had a significantly higher prevalence of depression diagnosis (adj OR 3.6 (95%CI 1.0-12.3)), being prescribed anti-depressant drugs (adj OR 6.8 (95%CI 1.6-29.5)), and scoring above screening threshold (>10) at PHQ-9 (adj OR 5.4 (95%CI 1.6-17.8)), compared to non-victims. Single victimization showed no increase in odds for any depression measure.

Conclusions and implications

Hospitalized older adults, especially women, have a high prevalence of lifetime polyvictimization. Polyvictimization increases the odds for depression in old age. The co-occurrence of polyvictimization and depressive symptoms is clinically relevant, as they are both under-diagnosed in older adults.

Help seeking behaviour of domestic abuse survivors and victims from black and minority ethnic groups.

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This research explore the differences and similarities of help seeking behaviour and needs amongst survivors and victims of domestic abuse from different ethnic groups.

People from black and ethnic minority backgrounds are under-represented in domestic abuse service user data. Our research identifies that those at risk of 'honour-based violence' experience abuse for 2 years longer than those not at risk of 'honour-based violence'. This research looks to explore the reasons behind this and the gaps and opportunities for data collection and service delivery, and the differences in needs of those accessing domestic abuse services.

The research approach and methodology are based on a review of the existing literature and data and analysis of service level data (Insights). There is a focus on identifying different use of services and needs of survivors and victims and identifying gaps and opportunities for further research and service development. The emerging findings of this work will be able to be presented at the conference.

Intrafamily Femicide in Defense of Honor in The Arab World: The Case of Muslim Victims

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Women become victims of honor crimes that take place when they fail to adhere to cultural boundaries imposed by the male-dominated society. In an effort to “cleanse” the shame that was brought to family members by their female relatives. These crimes are an act of violence towards women who were either sexually assaulted or have chosen to break the “taboos” that were made to control women’s sexual behavior. Intrafamily femicides are most common in the Arab countries of Jordan (with almost 180 victims per year), Egypt, and Iraq (with over 9,000 victims in the past ten years). Other countries like Syria and the Arab Gulf countries also have high rates of honor crimes (Baydoun, 2011). Most Arab countries do not have laws that protect women from honor killings or sexual harassment; in fact, laws are so heavily weighted against women and it is almost impossible to hold perpetrators accountable (ESCWA, 2017). In various Arab countries, honor killings are viewed as an extension of traditional Islamic practices. This presentation will highlight the Islamification of culture in the Arab world on the practice of honor killing committed in its name. To shed a light on honor crimes in the Arab world, I will review the laws implemented in the three Arab countries with the highest percentages of honor killings (i.e., Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq) and how Islam is used to justifying these actions. This presentation will strengthen awareness on honor killings in Arab countries among the public and policymakers, by collecting and analyzing court cases and judges’ rulings, Quran quotes, and referencing international human rights instruments relevant to protecting women’s rights.

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An exploration of LGBT+ victim/survivor help-seeking during the COVID-19 pandemic

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Growing evidence suggests that members of the LGBT+ community are at a similar or exacerbated risk of experiencing domestic abuse [DA] compared with cis-gendered heterosexual people (Reuter et al., 2017), perhaps due to their social and structural marginalisation (Barrett, 2015; Donovan and Hester, 2015). Furthermore, LGBT+ people face additional barriers to accessing support. Indeed, evidence suggests that LGBT+ victim/survivors are not seeking help at the same rate as cis-gendered heterosexual members of the population (SafeLives, 2018). Consequently, LGBT+ victim/survivors present with complex needs and higher levels of risk by the time they access DA services (Donovan and Barnes, 2019). The UK government messaging to “Stay home. Protect the NHS. Save lives.” is likely to have impacted on this further.

This paper will explore how LGBT+ victim/survivors have experienced help-seeking during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how specialist LGBT+ caseworkers have experienced supporting them. The paper will highlight opportunities for community level awareness raising and support, earlier intervention and recovery. Interviews with service users and staff are to be conducted in spring 2021.

Multidisciplinary approach in the area of protection of children against violence in the conditions of the Slovak Republic including the legislative background

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We offer the principles of multidisciplinary co-operation in the area of protection of children against violence in order to achieve a qualitative change in the perception and resolution of violence against children through integration of partial policies into an effective and functional mechanism, adjusted to the conditions of Slovakia.

The principles of multidisciplinary co-operation are promoted through position of 55 coordinators for protection of children against violence under the governmental institution (National Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of Violence against Children- NCC). The goal of a multidisciplinary approach is to respond adequately and effectively to the impulses and increasing willingness to speak on the topic of violence, which is also supported through the national campaign #ItDoesConcernMe (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXJHwxdGwUU>).

It is important to accept the diversity of needs within regional districts- the coordinator operates at regional level and through the NCC at national level as well. The relevant Ministries (police, schools, social workers, health facilities and others), the General Prosecutor's Office, NGOs and religious organisations have signed up for the multidisciplinary coordination supported through the role of the co-ordinator.

Multidisciplinary cooperation includes analysis of cases of violence and systemic deficiencies and multidisciplinary education aimed at enhancing the professionalism of individuals. The coordinator ensures the exchange of information, guides the overview of the competencies of the entities trying to prevent duplicity of actions. Part of the oral presentation will be examples of good practices in this area.

Since November 2019, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family has become the central state administration body for coordinating policies and activities aimed at protecting children against violence.

Through such a broadly-designed multidisciplinary cooperation, the competence of each entity (and individual) can be used in favour of a common goal: to ensure that every child who is at risk/victim of violence receives adequate help.

Who reports intimate partner violence against women in Spain? What happens to witnesses?

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Background:

In Spain, Organic Law 1/2004 of December 28, on comprehensive protection measures against gender violence regulates the management of intimate partner violence against women (IPVAW). According to this legal framework, IPVAW complaints can be filed either by the victim or by anyone who has knowledge of this violence (professional, family member, neighbour, etc.).

IPVAW is considered a "hidden" crime, but in the social circle of women may be a significant number of violence witnesses. Thus, different surveys indicate that up to 30% of people say having knowledge of IPVAW cases and, therefore, they could report it.

The aim of this paper is to analyse the origin of complaints filed by IPVAW in Spain and its evolution. It is hypothesized that the number of complaints filed by witnesses has increased over time.

Method:

We analyse secondary data about the origin of complaints filed by IPVAW in Spain since 2005 from reports and statistics produced by the Government Office against Gender-based Violence and the General Council of the Judiciary.

Findings:

The results show that the majority of complaints (around 80%) come from police reports with a complaint from the victim. Reports made by support services and a third person have increased considerably, although the proportion is still small. And complaints from police reports with a complaint from a family member and those made directly by a family member have grown less and represent a very small proportion (around 2%).

Conclusions:

These results indicate the need to continue working to encourage IPVAW witnesses to develop active helping behaviours, including reporting the cases they know in order to put in place victim protection mechanisms.

Criminal procedure flaws leading to intimate partner homicide - a case study under the Portuguese law

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In Portugal, when the commitment of the crime of domestic violence is reported to the competent authorities by any means, the criminal procedure is started, by the own initiative of the Public Prosecutor. At the same time, under Statute number 112/2009, the victim is granted a special status in the process, consisting of a number of rights to participation, information and protection. Under the law, criminal procedure for crimes of domestic violence is considered urgent, imposing the obligation of procedural promptness and that the investigation and prosecution of such cases take precedence over general crimes. Although, on a strictly legal point of view, the victim finds suitable protection, when putting the law at work, we often come across cases where the procedural delays and the lack of action of the competent authorities, such as the use of inefficient coercion measures or poor risk assessment of the case, taken by the police, or the Public Prosecutor, have a considerable influence in the occurrence of negative outcomes such as the homicide of the victim of domestic violence, while the criminal procedure was pending. In the current presentation, we bring to the light the case of a woman's homicide taken place while the criminal procedure was pending, still at an early stage, in spite of the woman's successive calls for protection and complaints to the police on her ex-partner behavior. This case ended with the ex-partner's own immolation by fire, managing to hold on to the woman in this process, leaving her to agonize for about three months until her death. The malpractice of the State in this case was not brought to Justice, seeking the civil liability for the death of this woman, but motivated the issuance of recommendations to practitioners, with the purpose of avoiding further recurrences in the future.

The Drive IDVA Model: Learning from the Drive project on joint work between perpetrator-focused and victim/survivor-focused practitioners

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The Drive project is an evidence-based intervention delivered in England and Wales. Drive Case Managers (CM) work with high-harm, high-risk and serial perpetrators of domestic abuse to prevent their abusive behaviour and protect victims/survivors. Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) are an integral part of the Drive model. This research explored the Drive IDVA model – including team structure, the nature of CM-IDVA joint work on the ground, and how these vary between local delivery sites – in order to inform practice and support model development. Primary research questions included: What are practitioner opinions on the Drive IDVA model as it operates in their area?; Does IDVA engagement with victims/survivors impact Drive CM work?

Two insider-researchers conducted thematic analysis of 12 semi-structured Drive practitioner interviews (6 CMs and 6 IDVAs). Participants had a wide range of professional backgrounds, with two CMs having previously worked as an IDVA (including one as a Drive IDVA).

Four over-arching themes were identified: what works?; approaches to casework; the CM-IDVA relationship; and balancing competing priorities. Participants were overwhelmingly positive about the Drive IDVA model, but there were outstanding areas for development. More time is required for CM and IDVA teams to reflect together on their ways of working, particularly in cases where IDVAs have been unable to engage victims/survivors. A key issue identified was practitioner stress, especially where IDVA teams were under-resourced. Project outputs and outcomes were found to depend on: exceptionally close, collaborative CM-IDVA working relationships; joint implementation of a holistic victim/survivor-focused approach; innovation that centres safety; and model flexibility.

While this research focused on the Drive project, its findings about perpetrator-focused and victim/survivor-focused practitioners' joint work bear relevance to other perpetrator programmes. Learning relates to perpetrator programme roll-out, processes/practice and guidance, practitioner recruitment, staff learning/development, staff support and wellbeing, and the wider multi-agency network.

"Strengthening public policies on perpetrator interventions to end violence against women: exchange between Latin America and Europe"

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Various actors have become aware that in order to eradicate violence against women comprehensive policies are necessary including intervention programmes for male perpetrators focused on the safety of victims / survivors.

EUROSociAL+, a cooperation programme between Latin America and Europe, has been supporting the development of public policies against gender-based violence in Latin America with a focus on perpetrator interventions. This support has been delivered through European Expertise in the work with perpetrators (Conexus Association, Spain) and study visits to learn about good practices.

As an example, the experience with the National Institute of Women in Uruguay had the objective to further develop the intervention model for perpetrators and resulted in the following main achievements:

- Reflection on the current intervention model, which is limited to high-risk perpetrators with strict protection measures, identifying considerable frustration of professionals due men's resistance and low motivation.
- Development of a proposal to change the model, reducing interventions with men with high resistance to risk management and expanding the offer of a change programme to convicted perpetrators with less resistance and to men without court order.
- Introduction of group work to the Uruguayan intervention model, creation of an intervention toolbox and training of teams in its delivery.
- Mutual enrichment, in which Conexus learned from Uruguayan good practices in working with co-gender and interprofessional facilitation teams and from the close collaboration between perpetrator and victim/survivor support services.

Conclusions:

- Relevance of an inter-institutional and inter-sectorial response for perpetrator programmes, with a common conceptual framework and agreed intervention model.
- Importance of adapting perpetrator interventions to the needs and possibilities of the (groups of) users.
- Importance of creating a forum of exchange between perpetrator programmes for in LAC and the EU, articulated through the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators.

Operationalising Coercive Control: Early insights on the use of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018

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In April 2019, following a sustained and high-profile campaign, Scotland introduced the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018, modelled on the concept of coercive control, which makes it a distinct offence for someone to engage in a course of behaviour that is abusive towards their partner or ex-partner. Proponents of the legislation sought primarily to address shortcomings in the legal response, arguing that existing criminal offences: focused too narrowly on individual incidents; failed to capture the ongoing and cumulative nature of domestic abuse; and obscured the gendered dynamics of power and control that characterise domestic abuse and the harms that flow from it. The Act was specifically intended to better reflect the experience of those subject to coercive control, improve the criminal justice response, and facilitate victim's access to justice.

However, questions remain about whether the new legislation is fulfilling these aspirations and about unintended consequences resulting from its implementation. This paper will review the operation of the Act two years on, including the extent to which the new offence of Domestic Abuse has actually been used, trends in the proportion of male and female perpetrators recorded, and the use of the new 'child aggravator'. Using evidence from official data and interviews with police officers undertaken upon the introduction of the Act, this paper will reflect upon the challenges and implications of the Act for policing domestic abuse.

SOL.NET Research Project: Intervention of Informal Support Networks on Domestic Violence

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Previous research confirms the social impact of informal support networks in the recovery processes of women in situations of violence (Adkins & Dush, 2010; Bybee & Sullivan, 2005; Goodman & Smyth, 2011), but there is a lack of research that has evaluated and identified the characteristics that make them successful actions. As a result, their implementation lacks clear and determined guidelines (Goodman, 2016). The research project (I+D+i) SOL.NET -still ongoing-, funded by the Spanish Government, has the general objective of identifying and analyzing solidarity actions that are contributing to the recovery of women in a situation of violence, placing special emphasis on those that have proven to contribute in the long term. In this presentation we expose part of the results corresponding to the first work package. These results have been obtained through a systematic search of research in Web of Science. A total of 273 papers were reviewed. One of the results obtained shows that there are three elements that condition the reaction of those who witness or are aware of a situation of domestic violence: their knowledge of the subject, their relationship with the victim or perpetrator, and their perception of what may happen to them after offering their help (Melgar, Campdepadrós, Fuentes & Mut, 2021). This last factor has been identified as a form of violence -of second order-. This type of violence can condition the reaction of people in the environment, even paralyzing it. Therefore, its approach has important implications for practice, since if we do not act to protect them it will be difficult for us to extend informal support networks (Flecha, 2021). At the political level, the first steps have begun to be taken, recently the Catalan legislation has been the first in the world to include second order violence.

The Safe pregnancy study - promoting safety behaviours in antenatal care among Norwegian, Pakistani and Somali pregnant women: A randomized controlled trial.

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The Safe pregnancy study - promoting safety behaviours in antenatal care among Norwegian, Pakistani and Somali pregnant women: A randomized controlled trial.

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Background: Intimate partner violence (IPV) around the time of pregnancy is a recognized global health problem with damaging consequences. However, little is known about the effect of violence assessment and intervention during pregnancy. We hypothesise that routine enquiry about IPV during pregnancy, in combination with information about IPV and safety behaviours, has the potential to increase the use of these behaviours and prevent and reduce IPV.

Methods: The Safe Pregnancy study is a randomised controlled trial to test the effectiveness of a tablet-based intervention to promote safety behaviours among multi-cultural pregnant women. Midwives included women attending routine antenatal care. The tablet-based intervention (video) consisted of a screening questionnaire for violence and information about violence and safety behaviours. Women who screened positive on the Abuse Assessment Screen was randomized to the intervention video or the control video promoting factors facilitating a healthy and a safe pregnancy. All women received information about referral resources. Women filled out a follow up questionnaire 3 months post-partum at the maternal and child health centre. Main outcomes: quality of life (WHOQOL-BREF). Secondary outcomes: prevalence of violence and the use of safety behaviours. Intention to treat analysis will be performed.

Findings: A total of 1818 pregnant women were recruited. 317 women had experienced IPV some time during their life. We are performing the analysis and results will be available for the conference.

Conclusions: The trial aim to provide evidence on whether enquiry about violence and a tablet-based intervention is effective and feasible to prevent or reduce harm from IPV among women who attend routine antenatal care.

Tackling sexual violence in large gatherings through safe spaces for women in the Canary Islands

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This practice focuses on prevention of and responses towards sexual violence in large gatherings, such as festivals, concerts, parties and other events, but also tackles gender-based violence (intimate partner violence, sexual harassment, stalking, bullying, etc.). “Safe Space for Women and Girls” (“Puntos Violeta” in Spanish) are created at these events; a physical and visible safe space which all women and girls can access in case of suffering any kind of sexual harassment for assistance/support. The Safe Space team consists of a panel of professionals such as a psychologist, a social worker and a gender equality specialist. It also involves volunteers (previously trained) who roam around the area, where the event is taking place, making themselves accessible to any woman or girl who needs assistance or anybody wanting to inform about somebody else needing assistance. This Safe Space is active as long as the event lasts, and it also offers a helpline if needed. All the people working at the Safe Space wear a uniform, in order to be easily identified. Another important task at hand is raising awareness on sexual violence and bystander intervention. The aim is to include everyone as responsible and active actors when it comes to sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women. Previously, training is provided to professionals from public services and other staff working at the event: bus and taxi drivers, waiters/waitresses, security guards, medical assistance, etc. Through this practice we have been able to access many survivors, providing them with the necessary support, young girls have been able to speak about the sexual violence they might have endured and never been able to share since a very young age and we have also normalised helping someone who seems uncomfortable, apart from other findings and results.

Rights, not 'gifts' of support in statutory social work

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Domestic violence and abuse is a complex, widespread and often hidden crime which has a devastating impact on individuals and society. In England, there are over 2 million victims/survivors per year (ONS, 2018) with women being disproportionately affected. In their everyday practice, statutory Social Workers recognise and respond to domestic violence and abuse situations prioritising victim/survivor safety through the lens of investigation, risk and the helping relationship. Although these are important aspects within practice, they tend to be the driving force of protections within statutory social work. This focus arguably stems from wider representations in society which can view victims/survivors as powerless, disenfranchised and vulnerable. Ideas such as these can shape practice and influence how victims/survivors are understood and responded to as in need of 'rescue', which manifests through victims/survivors being on the receiving end of assessments and resources by the gatekeeper role in social work.

To address this, practitioners require a better understanding of power constructs. Research suggests that although Social Workers have a commitment towards emancipatory practice, there can be a lack of clarity around power being seen as a capability (Tew, 2006) and some ambivalence around Social Workers possession of power. Typical practice may involve versions of empowerment though it being 'done to' victims/survivors where power is framed as an assessment of needs. Instead, social work practice could support victims/survivors to take power for themselves through being viewed as rights-holders. Although human rights can be seen as rhetoric and too politicised for everyday social work practice, this can be developed through the creation of a human rights based relationship between the victim/survivor and practitioner. As a starting point, the new framework 'Towards a human rights perspective' can strengthen practitioners understanding and development of a rights-based approach to domestic violence and abuse. The poster will explore this framework.

Preventive Socialisation of Intimate Partner Violence

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Scientific literature has largely considered perpetrators' or victims' families of origin as the main explanatory factor of IPV perpetration or victimization in adulthood (Callaghan, Alexander, Sixsmith, & Fellin, 2018). Nevertheless, the scientific literature on the approach of preventive socialization of gender violence shows that involvement in IPV adulthood is influenced by processes of socialisation into different models and patterns of attraction (Puigvert, Gelsthorpe, Soler-Gallart, & Flecha, 2019). This study relies on the qualitative analysis of life trajectories and experiences of 13 adults (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). Some of the participants, men and women, were victims of violence in their families of origin and later were not involved on DV victimization or perpetration; and of some of them were not victims of DV in childhood but ended up experiencing IPV in adulthood. The analysis and discussion of the life experiences gathered suggest, on the one hand, the relevance of first sexual and/or affective interactions or relationships during childhood, early adolescence and youth for both violent and non-violent later life trajectories. On the other hand, that positive social interactions (friendship and love) can serve as protective factors in overcoming DV experiences, fostering the search for egalitarian, free, nonviolent and passionate intimate relationships throughout life. These findings contribute to the debate and future research on the relevance of including other elements of analysis beyond considering DV in childhood in the understanding of the the subsequent experience of DV. Likewise, these findings can help practitioners and policymakers promote DV prevention strategies.

Victim service providers' secondary traumatic stress during COVID-19

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COVID-19 has infected more than 100 000 000 people worldwide and has produced a range of negative effects on many individuals and communities. Health crisis of such impact and duration elevated vulnerability of many groups with domestic violence victims being one of them. Many governments have introduced lockdowns in various forms for different periods. In many countries this meant shutting down a regular functioning of governmental institutions and keeping it at only necessary level, as well as curfews. Alongside with introducing those governmental measures many domestic violence advocates and NGOs warned about the possible negative impact of those measures on domestic violence victims. Although official data about domestic violence during the pandemic are yet inconclusive, many NGOs shared their experiences about new cases of domestic violence that were triggered by anti-pandemic measures (and their consequences) and more severe forms of violence in „old cases“. This situation created an additional burden for NGOs providing help and support for domestic violence victims in „new normal“ frame of functioning (abiding existing governmental measures). NGOs support providers are members of the community as well, and they also experience pandemic-related (and in the case of Croatia earthquake-related) stress and trauma. Also, it is well known that working with traumatized individuals (such as domestic violence victims) can result in secondary traumatic stress for help and support providers. The main question of this paper is to discuss does COVID-19 circumstances (stress, necessary modifications in service providing, etc.) add to already existing secondary traumatic stress for help and support providers in NGOs, and what can be done to help the helpers.

A rape is a rape no matter who the perpetrator of the crime is

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Is it possible that a raped woman does not realise that she has been raped? The answer, although surprising, is yes. Yes, it is possible when a perpetrator and a victim are intimate partners. I would like to explain why a woman as a wife or a partner is perceived as sexually available to a man and why rape is often not defined as rape when it occurs between people who are very close to each other. I will present how wifely duty is understood and what the significance of 'consent' in intimate relationship is. The patriarchy will be the background for my narrative, therefore I will raise issues such as men's power, domination and control. Furthermore, I will try to explain why sex is the least significant aspect of sexual violence.

Trafficking and domestic abuse

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Human trafficking takes on a variety of forms, and may intersect with domestic violence in multiple ways.

Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad. Almost every country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims.

Many victims are women and girls, though men and boys are also impacted

Victims include all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, citizens, non-citizens, and income levels.

Victims are trapped and controlled through assault, threats, false promises, perceived sense of protection, isolation, shaming, and debt

Victims do not have to be physically transported between locations to be victimized.

The consequences of sex trafficking are similar to the consequences of sexual violence. Consequences can be immediate and longterm including physical and relationship problems, psychological concerns, and negative chronic health outcomes.

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on women surviving intimate partner violence

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In order to slow down the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the governments have introduced various measures to limit social mobility that has had significant economic and social impact, including the raise of intimate partner violence against women. According to WHO, there was a 60 % increase in emergency calls from IPV survivors in Europe in April. In Slovakia, the national phone helpline reported 48 % increase in calls in 2020 comparing with the previous year. While data confirmed the raise of IPV internationally, less is known about the particular impact of the pandemic on IPV survivors. The proposed paper explores it in the context of Slovakia. It is based on a thematic qualitative analysis of 7 interviews with representatives of counseling centers and shelters and one focus group with national help line counselors carried out from July to November 2020. IPV survivors reported increased intensity of violence, mainly psychological and coercive control, but in some cases it escalated to physical and sexual one. Additionally, post-separation violence raised as well. Isolation, intensified violence, exhaustion and stress highly contributed to IPV survivors' psychological well-being. Besides serious psychological effects, pandemic measures have impacted IPV survivors in all aspects necessary for recovery. Access to supportive networks and professional help has been limited. Legal proceedings have slowed down. Possibilities for housing and economic independence have become complicated. On one hand, the accumulated violence has prompted some women to seek professional help after temporary release of pandemic measures. On the other hand, restricted access to services, downsized functioning of institutions and worsened economic situation have contributed to resignation of others to leave abusive relationships. Pandemic thus might have long-term effect on IPV survivors' lives and combined with accompanying economic insecurity might lead to deterioration of their life situation long after pandemic.

A concept analysis of 'subtle abuse'

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Aim: To present a concept analysis of subtle abuse (Marshall, 1994) as it occurs in intimate partner violence (IPV).

Background: In nearly 25 years as a psychotherapist I have frequently seen women presenting feeling depressed, anxious, confused and believing they are bad people but with no idea why. As I explore their lives with them we come to realise that for many, these feelings are because they are in a subtly abusive relationship. My Professional Doctorate research question is 'What constitutes subtle abuse of educated women of high socio-economic status in intimate heterosexual relationships?' Subtle abuse is both poorly conceptualised and under-researched. As part of my doctorate studies I conducted a concept analysis into subtle abuse.

Methods: A concept analysis was undertaken to 'analyse, define, develop and evaluate' (Delves-Yates et al., 2018) the concept of subtle abuse, following Rodgers' 1989 model.

Findings:

- An synthesis of the literature around similar terms
- The extent to which subtle abuse differs from abuse generally described by similar terms such as coercive control and gaslighting
- The development of a definition of subtle abuse
- The context which allows the abuse to occur and the consequences of the abuse, some of which may be particular to subtle abuse as opposed to more overt forms
- Presentation of my model case of subtle abuse

Conclusions: Subtle abuse of women in intimate relationships observed in the therapy room has been largely overlooked in the IPV field. In particular, subtle abuse amongst educated women with higher socio-economic status has not been studied at all. Literature indicates that this is leading to increased suffering for this group and unnecessarily increased length of abusive relationships. Further research is necessary to address this omission.

The historical perspective in the analysis of domestic violence

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Domestic violence transcends times and places. It is, as it was, present in most societies, far apart in distance and centuries. So why is such a timeless problem, for the most part, only analysed in its current circumstances? Can we really understand the topic without going deep into its roots, or at least, looking back further?

Many of the related research and activism supported the idea that domestic violence was disregarded and legitimized through time. Today, historiographic studies show a not so linear understanding of this past, revealing the powerful demands of women and the engagement and intervention of their surroundings and public powers. Understandably, the significant measures taken in the past few decades towards the elimination of domestic violence tends to overshadow the steps carried out in this extremely long historical process.

In this sense, the proposed presentation as two main lines of thought. Firstly, how can historical research contribute to the comprehension of domestic violence? What role does it play, what tools can it use and what knowledge can it bring? And secondly, does this type of violence, so seemingly unrelated to a particular time and place, have different characteristics through various historical contexts or it is simply the reproduction of an inherited behaviour, the reflexion of the past in the present?

Visualizing Survivorship: Developing Body Map Circumplexes to Examine Embodiment of Trauma Healing

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Traumatic experiences and indications of trauma recovery often manifest as bodily sensations prior to narrative expression. From a biological point of view, disembodied trauma memories affect the limbic system by locking the body into incomplete biological responses to perceived or actual threats. However, body maps – a therapeutic tool that allows artistic expression of bodily experience using the outline of a body – can capture and model these dynamic sensations. This study aimed to analyze body maps produced from the Clinical Ethnographic Narrative Interview in order to develop rubrics for quantitative analysis. Qualitative data from 24 gender-based violence survivors was integrated with clinical and theoretical literature to construct circumplex rubrics. The rubrics allowed for assessing and modeling emotions, self-view, memory, and other domains. A circumplex consists of two pairs of complimentary domains arranged on two axes, resulting in four numbered quadrants. The quadrants attribute a numerical value to the data's position on the circumplex continuum. Two independent raters evaluated the body maps in order to ensure consistent ratings. This presentation will describe the circumplexes – developed with mixed methods – used to quantify data obtained from the body map activity. Then, patterns regarding experiences of gender-based violence and extent of trauma healing embodiment will be presented. Implications for trauma informed recovery practices will also be discussed.

The kNOwVAWdata course: an innovative model for improving skills and collaboration for ethical and rigorous measurement and monitoring of violence against women

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As United Nations member states strive to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5, and in particular target 5.2—to eliminate all forms of violence against women (VAW) and girls—there is a growing demand for reliable and comparable prevalence data on VAW. However more data does not necessarily mean better data. Robust guidelines exist, such as the WHO questionnaire tools for best practice, and the UN Statistics Division Guidelines for Producing Statistics on VAW. However, a lack of technical and applied knowledge to safely implement surveys that measure VAW persists. To build capacity for measuring VAW, UNFPA's Asia-Pacific Regional Office, with support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, formed the kNOwVAWdata Initiative. In partnership with the University of Melbourne and Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety, and guided by a Technical Advisory Group, the partnership uses international best practices in measuring VAW to build a sustainable training and mentoring programme. The kNOwVAWdata Course on the Measurement of Violence against Women was successfully piloted in 2018 with a focus on the Asia region followed by a 2019 course focusing on the Pacific. Three independent evaluations have identified key strengths of the course including: adaptability to meet participants' needs; the diverse backgrounds and experience of participants; opportunities for shared learning; and a wide variety of interactive training methods. With the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the kNOwVAWdata course has been adapted to online delivery and now provides global training with participants from the Middle East, Europe, the Americas, Africa and Central Asia. Training includes support for ongoing surveys, mentoring, and an ongoing community of practice. To date over 80 participants have completed the course and a further 85 are currently enrolled. The long-term vision is for expansion of the course through international collaboration and co-branded training curricula with open-source materials.

A study of penalty in domestic violence cases

de Felice Michela¹

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In Italy, the number of femicide is high: for 2017 we have 123 murders of women, 43,9% of whom committed by partner or ex-partner.

This is not an emergency: it's an extreme act of physic violence against women or, in its widest meaning, it's an act of physic, psychological, economic, social and religious violence, that we have everytime a woman can't exercise fundamental rights because of being woman. In this perspective, numbers of femicide are the effect and not the cause.

Which is the responsibility of law and judges? Do gender stereotypes lead judges in those cases? Like ignorance of dynamics of domestic violence? We try to give an answer analysing cases decided by the Court of Cassation.

The search indexes used are the word murder and article 575 of Italian Criminal Code, because the word femicide is generally not used.

We have 94 cases of femicide and we have studied the cases using certain indicators: gender of the author and the victim, motive of the crime, aggravating circumstances, conviction and penalty imposed. and on the basis of the obtained data we have constructed some graphs.

In accordance with the Article 11 of Istanbul Convention, the main outcome of the study is understand how the domestic violence is recognized by Court of Cassation, in order to analyse its root causes and effects, incidences and conviction rates.

The numbers show that the murder of women, by a partner or ex-partner is a statistically significant crime in Italy.

Secondly, the characteristics of this crime, outlined and reconstructed by each decision, make it possible to show clearly why it is called femicide.

This study would be a support for policies because in Italy there are many problems like the lack of official statistical data on the phenomenon.

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