



Community of Practice Newsletter

January 2025

Community of Practice Conference

The RiVeR Project annual Community of Practice Conference was held on the DKIT campus on January 17th.

The theme of this year's conference was **'Keeping the spotlight on Coercive Control: A multi-agency approach.'** The event brought together stakeholders from a wide range of organisations from all across Ireland, with the aim of maximising education and support and further building a community of practice for those who currently work in this field.



DKIT's Dr. Edel Healy welcomed almost **200 delegates** to the conference, where they heard from a range of experts regarding the latest research and developments in relation to coercive control.



Dr. Kathleen Nallen, the RiVeR Project Lead, provided an update on recent projects and progress of the RiVeR Project.

Keynote speakers included **Dr. Stephanie O’Keeffe**, CEO of CUAN, the statutory agency set up to tackle Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV), **Davina James-Hanman** OBE, Independent Violence Against Women Consultant, **Dr. Susan Lagdon**, Senior Lecturer in Psychology at Ulster University and **Detective Superintendent Sinéad Greene**, from the Garda National Protective Services Bureau.



Short oral presentations showcasing a range of key developments in relation to Education, Training and Research in the context of DSGBV were provided to delegates in parallel sessions over the course of the afternoon.



Video recordings from the event will be made available on the **RiVeR Projects** new website which will be available shortly.

For further details relating to the annual Conference [CLICK HERE](#)

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

On January 24th, DkIT was delighted to welcome new students from all over the country, from a range of backgrounds on to the '**Certificate in the Fundamentals of Understanding and Responding to Domestic, Sexual & Gender-Based Violence**' programme.

The RiVeR project is offering scholarships which covers full fees to five students on each intake.

Applications will open shortly for the September 2025 intake [CLICK HERE](#)

Other Events and Notices From Our Community of Practice



MOVE Ireland Launch Annual Report 2023 and Strategic Plan 2025-2029

On Monday the 9th of December, MOVE Ireland launched both their Annual Report for 2023 and Strategic Plan for 2025-2029 in the Mansion House.

The launch was named 'From Harm to Hope: Pivot to the Perpetrator.' Our goal was to showcase that prevention and intervention programmes, and working directly with perpetrators of domestic abuse is crucial when addressing Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence. We were very fortunate on the day to have a number of guest speakers join us at the launch, including **Dr. Stephanie O'Keeffe** CEO of CUAN, **Dr. Louise Crowley Professor of Law in UCC** and **Detective Superintendent Sinead Greene**. On the day, attendees also heard the testimonial of a man who had completed the 'Choices' programme with MOVE Ireland.



In 2023, MOVE Ireland saw a 400% increase in calls and a 34% increase in referrals. Self-referrals made up 46% of all referrals for 2023, indicating a strong level of individual initiative in seeking services.



MOVE Ireland's full Annual Report 2023 and Strategic Plan 2025-2029 are now both available to read on the MOVE Ireland website.

[CLICK HERE](#)



Men's Aid were delighted to attend and participate in the DkIT RiVeR Project Annual Community of Practice Conference on January 17th.

Dr. Melissa Corbally, Associate Professor, Trinity College Dublin, gave an oral presentation based on early reflections from the 'MENCALLHELP2 study; a retrospective evaluation of a men's domestic violence helpline in Ireland', utilising anonymised call data from the Men's Aid helpline.



The current body of work, which Dr. Corbally is currently undertaking with Dr. Aisling Callan, Research Fellow, TCD and Mr. Aviejay Paul, Data Scientist, TCD is a follow on from the 2023 'Characteristics of Men Who Seek Help From an Irish Domestic Abuse Helpline: The MENCALLHELP Study' for which Dr. Corbally was also the lead researcher. This was an exploratory statistical analysis of 10 months of retrospective

contact data, analysis of which provided evidence as to the demographics of those contacting Men's Aid, what kinds of DVA were reported, how these behaviours were reported, and what kinds of outcomes resulted from the contact with the service.

Drawing from the current ongoing research, Dr. Corbally outlined some early findings and reflections, and spoke about possible predictors as well as indicators of men's needs that are coming through in the data. Dr. Corbally gave an overview of the utilisation of qualitative and quantitative reports, and as with the 2023 research, outlined how the research outcomes provide important information about the characteristics of the calls received, and the utilisation of that information to inform the enhancement of services provided to vulnerable men and their families.



We look forward to the full release of the MENCALLHELP2 study, and to sharing the findings with our colleagues and peers in the DSGBV sector and the wider community.



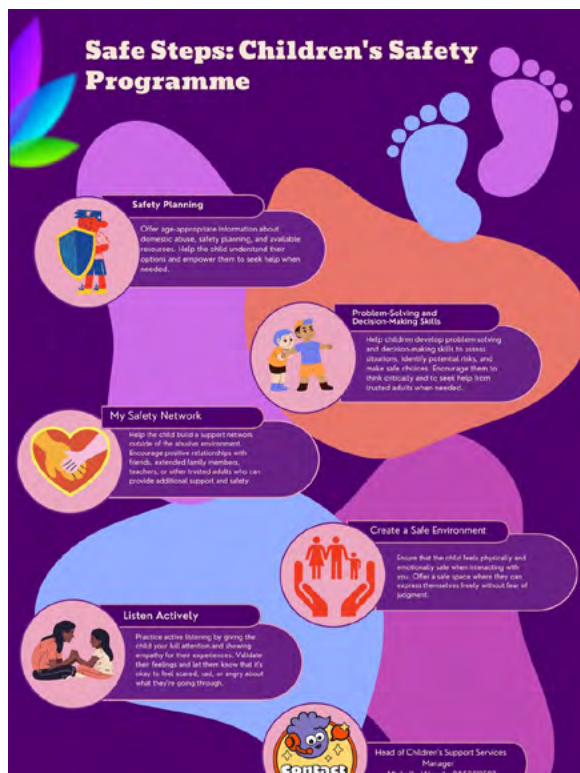
Drogheda Women's and Children's Refuge Centre - Support and Programmes for 2025

The Drogheda Women's and Children's Refuge Centre is offering a range of invaluable supports and programmes for 2025 aimed at helping individuals and families affected by domestic abuse. Here's a look at what's available:



- **Safe Steps - 6-Week Group Programme for Children (Ages 5-14)**

This programme is designed for children who have experienced living with domestic abuse. It offers a safe, supportive environment to help children understand and cope with their experiences.



- **The CourAGEus Programme**

Delivered in schools, this programme focuses on promoting healthy relationships while addressing unhealthy and abusive relationships among teens. It's a proactive step towards education and awareness around relationship dynamics.

- **The Freedom Programme - 12-Week Course for Women**

Aimed at women who are currently experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse, this programme helps participants recognise and understand the nature of abuse in relationships, empowering them to make informed decisions.

- **Weekly Outreach Clinics**

The refuge offers weekly clinics with their outreach team, providing emotional and practical support, as well as guidance around legal options for those affected by domestic abuse.

- **Tailored Training for Professionals**

The centre provides specialised training on recognising and responding to domestic abuse and coercive control. This training is available for professionals who want to better support people affected by domestic abuse.

For more information or to access any of these services, please contact the Drogheda Women's and Children's Refuge Centre at 041 984 550

droghedarefuge.org



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[linkedin.com/in/river-project](https://www.linkedin.com/in/river-project)