

JANUARY 2024



DOMESTIC ABUSE TRAINING & AWARENESS PROJECTS 2023/24

INFORMATION GUIDE

With thanks to funding from



For more details contact : Sarah Bruce, BADSVAP Co-Ordinator
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All sessions are FREE to attend however registration is required in advance.

Please note dates will be updated on an ongoing basis
Please visit www.belfastdvp.co.uk for updates

01

DOMESTIC ABUSE AND THE ROAD TO JUSTICE CONFERENCE

This conference, taking place during the 16 Days of Activism for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, will address the road to justice for domestic abuse victims, the issues they face, how perpetrators are held accountable and consider what more needs to be done to encourage victims to come forward to report domestic abuse. The conference will consist of two parts:

The morning session will focus on those responsible for domestic abuse and will bring together key criminal justice agencies to discuss the criminal justice process, holding perpetrators to account, managing offenders and mitigating risk. We will have input from partner agencies including Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Public Protection Service, Probation Board for NI and the Judiciary. It will explore how agencies can best work together to improve access to justice for all victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

The afternoon session will focus on the victim's journey through the criminal justice system and seek to address the issues and obstacles that victims face. This will involve input from victim support services working together to support victims and seeking improvements to help victims come forward, feel supported and believed, and reduce attrition rates. The conference will hear from case studies of victims on how we can work to improve the criminal.

We will hear from a range of speakers including David Martin, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. Chair, Domestic Violence Unit, Co-Chair, Regional Domestic Violence Firearm Enforcement Unit, King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (Key Note Speaker), Probation Board for NI, Police Service of NI, Public Prosecution Service, Senior Legal Figure, Commissioner Designate for Victims of Crime NI and Support Services for Victims.

DATE



Tuesday 28th November 2023, 9am to 4pm
Newforge Country Club



02

DOMESTIC ABUSE AND CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SEMINAR

Children & Young People are victims of domestic abuse in their own right. The provisions of the Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act (NI) 2021 came into operation in February 2022 and the Act contains statutory aggravator provisions whereby sentencing may be increased (aggravated) where there are children involved, a positive step forward in recognising the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people.

The session will address firstly, child victims of domestic abuse whereby the abuse is happening in the home and secondly, children/ young people as victims in dating and intimate relationships.

We will also see the development of a training animation which will be launched at this event. The animation is targeted at young people in dating relationships and raise awareness of this type of abuse and the use of technology in dating relationships.



DATE

5th March 2024, St Comgall's, Divis St
Please get in touch to register your interest.



03

ABUSE & COERCION IN RELATIONSHIPS- SESSIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

To follow on from the Children's Seminar we plan to facilitate a number of sessions with community based organisations in the Belfast Area, educating young people around healthy relationships. These sessions explore the dynamics of abuse in relationships for young people, including types and effects of intimate partner abuse and coercion and sexual exploitation, help seeking behaviour in teens, the role of the digital world and issues that can arise from abuse such as youth homelessness, trauma, isolation and anxiety.

These workshops can be delivered to youth and community groups.



DATES

Ongoing.

Please get in touch for more information.

04

DOMESTIC ABUSE, HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE, FORCED MARRIAGE AND FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM) SEMINAR



This seminar will highlight the particular issues facing BAMER women in Belfast and throughout Northern Ireland who are experiencing domestic abuse. It will promote a greater cultural understanding of these obstacles and raise awareness of the legal remedies available with regards to both civil and immigration law. It will discuss the increasing threat of Honour-Based Violence experienced by women in Northern Ireland and raise awareness of the frequency of Female Genital Mutilation in the U.K. In addition, we wish to encompass men's experience of forced marriage and so called honour based violence and how this impacts on men. This session will feature input from partner agencies.

DATE

Thursday 28th September 2023
Girdwood Community Hub



05

DOMESTIC ABUSE AND MALE VICTIMS

A seminar bringing together key partner agencies looking specifically at the impact of domestic abuse on male victims (including LGBTQIA+), the issues and barriers they face and raise awareness of specialist support services available.

This seminar will bring the voices of male victims of domestic abuse into the room and draw on their own experiences to inform what is needed, to improve access to support and remove barriers.

Further information to follow.



DATE

March 2024

Please get in touch to register your interest.

06

LEGAL REMEDIES WORKSHOPS

There have been significant legislative changes over the last number of years including coercive control legislation, stalking and non-fatal strangulation. In previous years the BADSVAP has developed Legal Remedies Guidance for professionals and practitioners to be equipped with the relevant information to inform and signpost victims.

In light of legislative changes, the Partnership has extensively updated the guidance and plans to launch the guidance to inform professionals and practitioners, including social workers and community/ voluntary workers in the Belfast Area, followed by a series of workshops. Workshops will be a combination of in-person and online to accommodate all schedules.

Funding allows for the printing of “Legal Remedies at a Glance” guidance which supports the training and acts as a handbook for professionals to refer to when supporting victims.

DATES

Provisional date for launch - February 2024
Please get in touch to register your interest.



07

DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS RESOURCES

Funding is also allowing for the printing and planned dissemination of covert awareness raising materials (lip balms, pocket mirrors and nail files) to front line agencies and the general public.

We are also working on updates to safety cards which will be printed. These safety cards provide vital safety and signposting information for:

- Victims who have left their partner
- Staying safe during an incident
- Safety information when living with a partner
- Staying safe online

There will also be a leaflet specifically aimed at LGBTQIA+ victims of domestic abuse.

Please get in touch if your organisation/ agency would like a supply.

**domestic and
sexual abuse
helpline**
0808 802 1414

08

BUS CAMPAIGN

As part of the 16 days of activism for the elimination of violence against women and girls (which runs from 25th November – 10th December) we are planning a domestic abuse awareness campaign, signposting to support services, across the rear of 100 Belfast Buses. The cycle will run from 20th November to 3rd December.

We are also planning an online social media campaign simultaneously throughout this period.

DOMESTIC ABUSE.

IT'S EVERYONE'S BUSINESS.

HELP IS AVAILABLE.

domestic and sexual abuse
helpline 0808 802 1414

dsahelpline.org

Hosted By

Nexus

Campaign funded by:

Belfast Area
Domestic & Sexual Violence
and Abuse Partnership

Women's Aid
BELFAST & LISBURN

mpa
men's advocacy project

RSP
Policing & Community
Safety Partnership



09

JIGSAW PROGRAMME

In 2018 BADSVAP received funding from the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) to commission an experienced organisation to work with relevant expert organisations, particularly partnership members, to develop a resource pack and associated programme to support women leaving crisis, particularly to improve their parenting skills and confidence. In addition to developing the resource pack, the delivery of Training the Trainers Capacity Building and Mentoring support was provided for those who deliver the programme.

A co-design process and practice combined with a service user focused approach was considered essential to underpin the programme framework and resources, now named as the Jigsaw programme.

A further session for the Jigsaw Programme has been made available.



DATE

Wednesday 6th December, 10am to 3.30pm
30 Adelaide Park



10

NON FATAL STRANGULATION SEMINAR

This session proved very successful in November 2022 and the legislation has now gone live as of 26th June 2023.

We plan to deliver this session again, with input from Forensic Physician Dr Farah Yusuf from St Mary's SARC Manchester. There is a need to ensure first responders and frontline practitioners are trained to recognise the impacts of non-fatal strangulation and know how to respond. It's also crucial that victims and potential victims of domestic abuse are aware of changes in legislation and the impacts and the dangers associated with non-fatal strangulation.



DATE

Tuesday 27th February 2023, 9.30am to 1pm
NICVA, 61 Duncarin Gardens, Belfast

CONTACT

If you would like any further information on any of our events please contact:

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Abuse Partnership Co-Ordinator
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The Belfast Area Domestic & Sexual Violence and Abuse Partnership brings together agencies, organisations, groups and individuals who want to improve services and support for all victims of domestic & sexual violence and abuse.