

# RiVeR Project

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

## February 2024 Community of Practice Newsletter

The **RiVeR Project** was delighted to support the **Seeking Safety Project's** launch of their peer evaluation report in the Mansion house on Feb. 9th. This is an inspirational and innovative therapeutic programme designed to support women who are experiencing difficulties resulting from substance misuse, trauma/or mental health issues and domestic sexual or gender-based violence. This national pilot commenced in October 2022, and is currently being funded by HSE, with the support of the Department of Health, Women's Mental Health Task Force. This funding will cease in March 2024.



**Research Positions:** The RiVeR Project will be advertising 2 MSc. projects in the area of Domestic, Sexual & Gender Based Violence in March 2024. Keep an eye on **X @RiverProject\_ie** or email **info@riverproject.ie** for more information.

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## Other Events and Notices From Our Community



Inspiring Inclusion  
**INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY**



Lunch and Chat Event  
Friday 8th March 12:45pm-2pm  
REGISTER NOW - ZOOM



International Women's Day



[Click here to register for this event](#)

To mark **International Women's Day**, the HSE National Social Inclusion Office is thrilled to invite you to an insightful and interactive discussion on the critical topic of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (DSGBV)

This **Lunch and Chat virtual event** aims to shed light on the various aspects of DSGBV, empower attendees with knowledge, and foster open dialogue amongst panelist and participants.

The inspiring Ali Warner will moderate the open discussion amongst panelist and invite attendees to share experiences and discuss in small groups.

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**HSE SOCIAL INCLUSION STAFF**

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**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**  
CULTURAL AWARENESS  
SOCIAL MOTIVATORS  
CLASSIFICATIONS  
HEALTH CONSEQUENCES  
SUPPORTIVE CONSULTATION  
REFERRAL PATHWAY



**AKIDWA: FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION**

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DATE: WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2024      TIME: 15:30 - 17:00 PM

**AkiDwA** is the national network of migrant women in Ireland, advocating for social integration, sexual & reproductive health, and safety from gender-based violence. **AkiDwA is funded by HSE Social Inclusion to educate affected communities and healthcare professionals on Female Genital Mutilation.**

[Click here to register for this event](#)

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# Drogheda Women's & Children's Refuge

## **DWCR Safe Harbour Outreach Education & Support Project**

### **“Empowering Communities, Protecting Lives”**

We are excited to share the news that Drogheda Women & Children's Refuge has been awarded funding through the Department of Justice Community Safety Innovation Fund in 2023. This funding marks a significant milestone for Drogheda Women & Children's Refuge, enabling the provision of outreach and educational support to women and children at Mosney Village for the next two years. Furthermore, it empowers us to recruit a dedicated Outreach Support & Education Worker specifically for women in Mosney Village.

Our project seeks to bridge the knowledge, capacity, and practice gap between the asylum seeker and refugee sector and the domestic sexual violence support sector. The primary goal is to reduce the risk of domestic and sexual violence in the Mosney Village by fostering empowerment and freedom in the realms of prevention, education, and reporting.

Adopting a community development and trauma-informed approach, we aim to build trust and enhance the capacity of women through targeted development programmes. These initiatives will facilitate engagement and deepen their understanding of domestic and family violence, addressing its root causes and providing referral pathways to access additional support.

Currently, we are in the recruitment phase and developing a work plan for the first year of the project.

Central to our approach is collaboration, especially in the development of good practice models. To ensure the success of this initiative, we have established a steering group drawn from relevant organisations working with women and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

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The **COSHARE** network is affiliated with a broader research collaboration between Ulster University and the University of Galway [Chaired by Dr Susan Lagdon UU & Dr. Pádraig MacNeela UG]. Our collective efforts focus on establishing an all-island comprehensive approach to consent, sexual violence, and harassment (C-SVH) research and practices, encompassing Higher Education and beyond. The primary objective of the COSHARE network lies in facilitating knowledge dissemination through regular gatherings, fostering discussions on the current landscape of C-SVH and its interconnected facets within Higher Education. Click below for more information.

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/equalityanddiversity/endingsexualviolenceandharassmentinheis/coshare/>



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