

WWP

EN

Annual
Conference
2020



Prison, Probation &
Perpetrator Programmes –
Collaboration for Change



WWP | EUROPEAN NETWORK

WWP EN ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020 2-3 SEPTEMBER – ONLINE

MODERATION: Nathan Eisenstadt, PhD (University of Bristol)

Dr Nathan Eisenstadt is a Senior Research Associate in Domestic Violence Perpetrator Group Intervention at the University of Bristol. Nathan was lead qualitative researcher on the evaluation of the Drive Project and is currently working on Reprovide - a Randomised Control Trial of a 23-week group programme for domestically abusive men. He is an honorary research associate at University Exeter for work on bystander intervention Football in Sport and is co-founder and director of Kindling Transformative Interventions, which offers bystander training for the prevention of sexual and domestic abuse and the harms associated with multiple forms of inequality.

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2 SEP: PERPETRATOR WORK IN THE CONTEXT OF PROBATION

9:00 Welcome & Programme Preview

9:10 Words of Welcome from WWP EN

9:15 Opening Words

Gerry McNally, President Confederation of European Probation (CEP)

9:25 Keynote Speech: [Work with offenders of gender-based violence in the Croatian criminal justice system](#)

Jana Špero (Assistant Minister, Directorate for Prisons and Probation, Ministry of Justice, Croatia)

9:45 Keynote Speech: [Prison & probation-based perpetrator programmes in Europe – An overview](#)

Sandra Jovanović Belotić (OPNA, Serbia)

10:05 Audience Q&A

10:20 Coffee Break

10:50 Panel Discussion: Perpetrator work in the context of probation

Panellists: Carmel Donnelly (Irish Probation Service), John Doyle (MEND, Ireland), Andrew Blackhurst (Drive project, UK), Laura Negrodo (General Secretariat of Penitentiary Institutions, Spain)

11:50 Audience Q&A

12:10 Summary of discussions and transition to workshops

12:20 Lunch Break

13:30 Workshops 1-4 (see [workshop descriptions](#) for more information)

14:30 Virtual social networking

3 SEP: PERPETRATOR WORK IN THE PRISON CONTEXT

9:30 Review of Previous Day & Programme Preview

9:45 Words of Welcome from WWP EN

9:50 Keynote Speech: [Multi-agency cooperation for effective change in imprisoned perpetrators of domestic violence](#)

Darren O'Connell (Drive project, UK)

10:10 Audience Q&A

10:20 Coffee Break

10:30 Panel Discussion: Perpetrator Work in the Context of Prison

[Panellists:](#) Laura Opris (Oradea Penitentiary, Romania) – Paolo Giulini & Isotta Rossoni (CIPM, Italy) – Davide Parma (Relive, Italy)

11:30 Audience Q&A

11:50 Lunch Break

13:00 Workshops 5-8 (see [workshop descriptions](#) for more information)

14:05 Joint Feedback Session on Conference

14:15 Conference closing

14:20 Virtual social networking



KEYNOTES

KEYNOTE BY JANA ŠPERO: WORK WITH OFFENDERS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THE CROATIAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Jana Špero is Assistant Minister (Director General) for the prison and probation system at the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Croatia. Since 2019, she is the Vice-President of [CEP](#) (Confederation of European Probation). Ms. Špero holds a master's degree in Law, as well as "Specialist of Criminal Investigation". As an international consultant for the Council of Europe, she was involved in different activities regarding the development of probation services and has been engaged as an expert in prison/probation projects in Europe on multiple occasions. She was and is the project leader of EU projects for the prison/probation service in Croatia.

Keynote Outline

Offenders who committed gender-based crimes in the Republic of Croatia represent a small group of offenders in total. However, considering the consequences of gender-based crimes for victims and society in general, a lot of effort is taken by criminal justice experts to change their behaviour and to prevent recidivism. In most cases, as part of the sanction, courts order a psychosocial treatment programme. There are specific cognitive-behavioural treatment programmes for offenders both on probation and in prison. Treatment programmes take place as group work or individually. The keynote will provide more information regarding three specific programmes: „Prevention of recidivism and control of impulsive behaviour“, „Aggression Replacement Training“ and „You can do it differently“.

KEYNOTE BY SANDRA JOVANOVIĆ BELOTIĆ: PRISON AND PROBATION-BASED PERPETRATOR PROGRAMMES IN EUROPE – AN OVERVIEW

Sandra Jovanović is a psychologist with ten years' experience in the field of domestic violence. She has provided psychological support for women and children exposed to violence, ran the first Serbian perpetrator group and founded the National Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Violence Serbia (OPNA). She has been working as an expert consultant in the field of perpetrator work, focusing on the standardization of perpetrator programmes and their set-up in accordance with the Istanbul Convention. Sandra is the author of the [WWP EN Expert Paper](#) "Probation and prison based programmes for perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence: a European overview".

Keynote Outline

In her keynote speech, Sandra will focus on the relevance of prison- and probation-based perpetrator programmes for combating domestic violence. After providing an overview of the variety of perpetrator programmes in Europe, she will look at some issues that are specific to perpetrator programmes in the criminal justice context, and the main challenges she identified within the framework of preparing her expert paper. An important aspect throughout her speech will be the importance of close collaboration between the different agencies involved.

KEYNOTE BY DARREN O'CONNELL: MULTI-AGENCY COOPERATION FOR EFFECTIVE CHANGE IN IMPRISONED PERPETRATORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Darren O'Connell is manager of the [Drive Project](#) in South Wales. He has worked in or been closely aligned to the work of the criminal justice sector for most of his adult working life and began his career working with perpetrators as a prison officer. Later on, as Criminal Justice Officer with Hafal (a National Charity), Darren worked across probation areas, promoting links between criminal justice agencies, mental health services and health and social care services to join the dots needed to work on a successful recovery model for service users. He has supported probation officers by giving them confidence to challenge when service user needs were not being met. Darren strongly believes that people can change with access to the right support, and that community interventions can divert individuals from offending behaviour and keep them out of the criminal justice system.

Keynote Outline

Recidivism rates continue to rise all over Europe. If we want to reduce and avoid recidivism, we must collaborate. From prison to community, we must construct mechanisms and structures for close collaboration for the common goal of stopping reoffending. By working together, we can help the offender construct a firm foundation to build upon, as we approach them as individuals with an inherent value, worthy of support, rather than just as an offender. Aiding them to address their physiological needs provides an important basis for our work on sustained attitudinal and behavioural change. With the Drive project, we have had very good outcomes in Wales, UK. Over the last four years, we have developed systems by building up professional rapport to enable 'buy in' with statutory agencies, thereby enhancing access to and collaboration with both the offender and the involved agencies.



WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOPS: 2 SEPTEMBER

Workshop 1, Rory Macrae & Gill McKinna ([Community Justice Scotland, Scotland](#)): *The Caledonian System - Scotland's integrated approach to address men's domestic abuse and to improve the lives of women, children and men*

The Caledonian System is the national Scottish accredited court mandated response to domestic abuse. It consists of a men's behaviour change programme delivered by criminal justice social workers, a support, advocacy and safety planning service for the men's partners, a children's service and a model for inter-agency working, which promotes a perpetrator pattern focus in all agencies' responses to domestic abuse.

In the workshop, participants will learn about the Caledonian system and our trauma sensitive approach to working with the men, women and children. Additionally, we offer an analysis of the political context, which made implementation of the system possible, and the collaboration between the Justice Department and Equality Units of the Scottish Government. We will discuss how the Scottish government's adoption of a gender based analysis of domestic abuse and its promotion of a robust community justice model has supported the Caledonian System.

Workshop 2, Owen O'Neill ([MOVE, Ireland](#)) & Carmel Donnelly ([Irish Probation Service, Ireland](#)): *Developing a shared protocol of cooperation between probation and community Domestic Violence Intervention Programmes in Ireland – the challenges and the opportunities*

The workshop will focus on the process of creating a shared protocol between the Probation Service and NGOs delivering Domestic Violence Intervention Programmes (DVIPs) in Ireland. Participants will learn about the specific context of men referred to DVIPs from probation.

We will look at the challenges for organisations coming from different sectors, statutory and non-statutory, in creating shared protocol that respects the differences within each organisation. We will look at the critical issues that emerged and how we resolved them. We will examine what has worked well and what remains to be done. We will share an outline of the Protocol with those in attendance

Workshop 3, Bledar Zeneli & Iris Luarasi ([CLMB, Albania](#)): *Journey towards our collaboration with courts, prisons, probation service and other stakeholders in Albania*

For the first part of the workshop, we will present:

- A brief history of how we established agreements with prisons, probation and courts.
- A short summary how the Istanbul Convention embeds perpetrator programmes in its strategy to prevent VAW (Article 16), how it requires states parties to fund and co-fund perpetrator programmes and where it is possible to set up programmes in close co-ordination with specialist support services for victims as we did.
- Benefits from and challenges in the cooperation with the various agencies and stakeholders.

During the presentation, we will give response to various questions, such as:

- What have been the results of our work thanks to these collaborations for the victims, children and for perpetrators?
- What are our plans and objectives for the future in this direction?

The second part of the workshops will be an open discussion with all participants regarding these topics:

- How is the collaboration between services with perpetrators and institutions in your country?
- What are the challenges and obstacles during your collaboration?
- What are the results?
- What can you do to improve your collaboration in the future?
- What was new for you during the workshop?
- What do you think regarding the multidisciplinary group in this field?
- What can you do differently in the future?

Workshop 4, Nicolas Barnes-Mendez & Tania Johnston ([University of Barcelona, Spain](#)): *Integrating virtual reality in rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators in prison and probation settings*

In this workshop, we will present and discuss the work we are conducting with perpetrators in prison and probation settings in collaboration with the Department of Justice of Catalonia and as part of the VR Per GENERE European project.

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

This VR Per GENERE is based on work that we have already been doing with the Justice Department of Catalonia using virtual reality as part of the programme of rehabilitation of gender violence offenders. Our system called [VRespectMe](#) arose out of the FP7 project [VERE](#) and a European Research Council Proof of Concept ([SERE](#)).

This workshop will be based on our actual experience of working with virtual reality with offenders.

WORKSHOPS: 3 SEPTEMBER

Workshop 5, Senka Damjanović ([Dom Duga Zagreb, Croatia](#)): *The Croatian model of perpetrators programmes – Similarities, differences and challenges of programmes in the community and prison system*

In the fight against domestic violence, Croatia has recognized the importance of working with perpetrators, as well as with victims of domestic violence. Perpetrators found guilty are required to participate in programmes. These programmes are implemented both in the prison system and in the community.

In the Croatian prison system, there are two different curricula. One programme has been developed (“NAS”) that corresponds to the everyday life in prison, while the programme intended for perpetrators in the community is adapted to the conditions of life in the community or with family members (“PSTN”). As part of the workshop, we will examine the differences, similarities and specific challenges of these two curricula.

The second part of the workshop will provide attendees with the opportunity to discuss the following questions:

- Many people believe that programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence do not make sense for perpetrators serving long prison sentences. What is your stand on this?
- What factors contribute more to the change of a “severe-harm” perpetrators of domestic violence - prison sentences or programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence?
- According to your professional experience, what are the major differences in the perpetrator programmes delivered in the community and in prison?

Workshop 6, Antonella D'Ambrosi ([ASL Frosinone, Italy](#)) & Adele Di Stefano (ASL Roma 1, Italy) : The Conscious project – An inter-systemic network against gender-based violence

During the workshop, we will focus on key aspects of our project, including:

- Partnerships created during the project aimed at building a new network between public and private institutions to develop a coordinated joint action to stop and prevent gender-based violence.
- Treatments groups in the Cassino and Frosinone prisons and at (local health authority) of Frosinone. The groups allow perpetrators to increase their impulse control and emotions decreasing the chance of recidivism.
- The results of and challenges during a project, especially during the COVID-19 lockdown, aimed at making a big change in our culture.

Furthermore, we will focus our attention on the discussions held during the annual conference to allow the exchange of experiences, good practices and to strengthen strategies designed for safeguarding public health.

To foster discussion, participants will be asked the following questions:

- Do you know of similar actions that have been or are being carried out in your countries or in Europe? How are they similar or different from the Conscious experience?
- What needs to be done and which actions can be taken in the future to make sure that this framework is implemented in the public healthcare of our countries?

Workshop 7, Christina Jankowski & Victor Chebyshev ([Kaspersky, Germany](#)):
Stalkerware - A digital dimension of abuse

Stalkerware is an example of how technology facilitates intimate partner violence. This easily available software allows abusers to spy on their partners' cell phones, facilitating gender-based and domestic violence, harassment and sexual abuse. The workshop aims at

- increasing awareness and technical capacity of professionals working with perpetrators as well as
- facilitating a discussion on how to better address the issue of stalkerware.

In the first half hour, Kaspersky experts will provide you with a basic understanding of the functioning of stalkerware and how to detect it from a technical point of view. We will have time to discuss any questions you may have.

In the second half, we will open and moderate a discussion with the audience about the following questions:

- whether you as professionals have had experiences with abusers using stalkerware,
- whether best practices exist or how they can be developed, as well as
- what your ideas and suggestions are to increase victim-safety centred awareness and tackle the problem.

Participants of the workshop will

- develop an understanding of the problem of stalkerware as a tool of control in abusive relationships
- start reflecting upon how to include the topic of stalkerware and cyber violence into their programmes
- have the chance to gain knowledge from a leading cybersecurity company.

Workshop 8, Diana Montero (Public Defence, Costa Rica), Karina Ruiz (Ministry of Women, Uruguay), Alfonso Martinez ([EUROSociAL](#)): *Latin American experiences of perpetrators programmes in prisons and probation*

Perpetrators programmes in prison and probation context are not well developed in Latin America.

In the first part of the workshop, the Public Defence of Costa Rica will explain how they implement a perpetrator programme without having proper funding and with few institutions that can provide training.

In the second part of the workshop, the Uruguayan Ministry of Women will present their agreements with the Ministry of Interior to work with men using electronic bracelets in order to avoid recidivism.

In the third part, EUROsociAL will open and moderate a discussion with the audience about the following questions:

- What are the main lessons that we can get from Latin American experiences?
- How can we implement programmes in prison and probation context without public financing or even with the public opinion against working with perpetrators?

Additionally, we will examine how the European experiences of agreements with governmental bodies can help tackle some of the existing problems in Costa Rica and Uruguay.

Participants of the workshop will

- understand the situation in Costa Rica and
- start thinking about possible linkages between European experiences and Latin American programmes.



PANELLISTS

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JOHN DOYLE

John Doyle is National Coordinator at the [Men's Development Network's](#) MEND (men ending domestic abuse) Programme.

With a background in body-oriented psychotherapy, John has been the co-ordinator of MEND since 2006, currently managing the delivery of six CHOICES programmes. He has been on the National Domestic Violence Intervention Programme Committee in Ireland since 2008. He has presented at conferences nationally and in Europe, and was a board member of WWP EN for three years. In December 2013, the MEND Programme was chosen to represent Ireland in the European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA) in Vilnius.

MEND's experience in Ireland regarding the development of a protocol between Domestic Violence Intervention Programmes (DVIP's) and the Irish Probation Service for men referred by probation to DVIP's has been very positive and may provide a helpful process and template for other countries.

CARMEL DONNELLY

Carmel is an Assistant Principal Probation Officer with the [Irish Probation Service](#) having worked in the Service for almost 29 years across a range of assignments in both prison and community contexts. As part of her current role, she has lead responsibility for Probation Service policy and practice in the area of domestic violence and support, and for Probation staff to ensure best practice assessment and supervision of domestic violence perpetrators who are referred by the criminal courts. Carmel is a member of the Confederation of European Probation (CEP) Domestic Violence expert working group and has represented the Probation Service on the National Domestic Violence Intervention Programme Steering Committee since 2017.

Carmel worked with John Doyle (MEND) and Owen O'Neill (MOVE Ireland) on the development of referral and information exchange protocols with NGO's who deliver domestic violence programmes in the community.

ANDY BLACKHURST

Andy is team lead for the [Drive Project](#), a multi-faceted perpetrator intervention that works with highest risk/harm perpetrators. As a former police officer and probation offender manager, Andy has helped develop strong working practices and relationships between Drive and the probation and prison services. Andy can offer insights into finding common ground between perpetrator services and statutory services, which help cement strong joint working practices.

LAURA NEGREDO

Laura Negredo is the Deputy Assistant Director-General for Open Regime and Alternative Measures in the [Ministry of Interior, Spain](#). She is currently a member of the [Council for Penological Cooperation](#) (PC-CP) Working Group of the Council of Europe. She has been working in the field of alternative measures for more than 10 years; in particular, she has worked on the design and implementation of different treatment programmes for probationers. In 2010 and 2015, she coordinated the working group that developed the treatment programme for gender-based violence perpetrators in Spain, which will be the focus of her participation in the conference. In 2016 and 2017, she was the Resident Twinning Adviser of the Twinning Project "Support for further development and strengthening of the Probation Service in Croatia".

DAVIDE PARMA

Davide Parma is a psychotherapist working with perpetrators of domestic violence as well as sex offenders in prison. He is part of the [White Dove Association](#) which is an NGO based in Genova, Italy. The White Dove Association is part of the Italian network [RELIVE](#) and Davide will give a brief overview on different associations in their network working with sex offenders in prison. He will focus on specific opportunities and challenges arising while working in the prison context such as ensuring victim safety, multi-agency coordination and information flow among different partners, and creating a network to support released sex offenders and direct them to specific programmes outside the prison context.

ISOTTA ROSSONI

Isotta Rossoni holds a BA in International Relations and Russian from Queen Mary University of London and an MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Oxford. Her main interests lie in the field of gender-based violence, crimmigration and human trafficking. Prior to taking up the position of project coordinator with the [Centre for the Promotion of Mediation](#) (CIPM) in 2019, she worked as researcher, project manager and consultant for various Maltese NGOs, and as lecturer at the University of Malta. She is currently coordinating CIPM's ReSTart Project (2020-2021). The project is funded by Fondo di Beneficenza Intesa San Paolo and focuses on treatment programmes for sex offenders in prison and in the community in various Italian cities.

PAOLO GIULINI

Paolo Giulini holds a BA in Law and a master's in Clinical Criminology from the University of Milan, as well as master's in Psychodiagnosis from the A.R.P. in Milan. Paolo is the President and founder of the Italian [Centre for the Promotion of Mediation](#) (CIPM), an Italian NGO focusing on mediation, treatment of sex offenders in prison and in the community, and provision of support for victims. Aside from coordinating CIPM's activities, from the '90s onwards, Paolo has acted as expert criminologist for Lombardia's Regional Directorate of the Penitentiary Administration. He has published widely on the topics of restorative justice, criminological interventions in prison and in the community primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of violence.

LAURA OPRIS

Laura Opris is a licensed psychologist working in a maximum-security prison in Romania since 2007. As part of her professional experience, she managed group therapy and intervention programmes with high-risk inmates, especially those that committed crimes against other persons, including sex offenders.

After 13 years in the field, also as a manager, she tries to analyse if, as a female specialist involved in treatment of men who offended women, gender issues can interfere with others characteristics of a masculinized environment that tends to protect and reinforce aggression.