

# Kerry Malone

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Independent Social Work Consultant

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## The Workshop will consider :

- The prevalence of Domestic and Sexual offending within Northern Ireland
- An overview of the literature in relation to IP Sexual Violence
- Significant Risk Factors and Concerns

## The Workshop will consider :

- The Challenges for Practitioners in Assessing Sexual Offending within Intimate Relationships
- Treatment Pathways for Assessment, Treatment and Monitoring of Offenders
- Supporting Victims and Families impacted by IP Sexual Violence
- Implications for Future Practice

# Sexual Violence

Sexual Violence includes rape and sexual violence, genital mutilation, forced marriage, stalking, commercial sexual exploitation such as prostitution and pornography, crimes and murders committed in the name of 'honour', sexual harassment and domestic violence.

# Definitions

- **Intimate partner violence** refers to behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours.
- **Sexual violence** is "any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting. It includes rape, defined as the physically forced or otherwise coerced penetration of the vulva or anus with a penis, other body part or object."

(World Health Organisation )

# Prevalence of Domestic Abuse

# Northern Ireland Domestic Violence Definition

“Threatening, **controlling, coercive** behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexual orientation) by a current or former intimate partner or family member”

Tackling Domestic Violence and Abuse a Home Strategy 2015

Kerry Malone Independent Social Work Consultant

# The Facts

- There were **13,933** domestic abuse crimes recorded on 2016/17 second highest recorded since 2004/5.
- There were **3 murders** 2016/17
- Domestic abuse crimes increased in six of the eleven policing districts 2016/17



# The Facts

- It is estimated that **one in five women** and **one in nine men** will experience domestic abuse in the course of their lifetime
- It is estimated that at least **11,000** children in Northern Ireland are living with Domestic Abuse. Yet they are silent victims
- Repeat victimisation is common due to victim access

# Impact of abuse on female victims

- Loss of opportunity, Isolation from family/friends, Loss of income or work, homelessness
- Emotional/psychological effects such as experiences of anxiety, depression or lowered sense of self-worth;
- Poor health; physical injury or on going impairment;
- If they are pregnant they may miscarry or the baby may be stillborn;
- Loss of Life (two women a week are killed by their partners or former partners).

# Key statistics: Male DV Victims

In a study undertaken by the RESPECT National Men's advice line identified-

- 2,903 men who identified as victims
- 2,172 identified as heterosexual
- 131 identified as gay
- The remaining did not disclose.

# Men Impact Issues

- Embarrassed, confused, afraid they will not be believed or blamed for the abuse, fear of losing children, still in love with partner and want to make the relationship work
- Physical injuries, trauma and depression
- However most male victims talked about emotional than physical abuse

# Differences with Female Victims

- Perception no one wants to help, don't know who to tell, lack of services
- “Male entitlement” issues, male attitude in not be able to seek help
- Sexual Abuse is under reported in male / female relationships
- However 34% of men in same sex relationships reported having experienced sexual abuse.

## Domestic Abuse Young People from LGBT community

- 61% of the respondents had witnessed some form of abuse in their families.
- 52% of respondents said that they had experienced some form of abusive behaviour from a partner or ex-partner.
- Although 52% of respondents identified having experienced some form of abusive behaviour from a partner or ex-partner, only 37% recognised the behaviour as abuse.

## Domestic Abuse Young People from LGBT community

- 24% of respondents had experienced physical violence from a partner or ex-partner.
- Half of the respondents who identified as transgender had been made to feel insecure about their gender identity by a partner or ex-partner.
- 20% of respondents who had experienced abuse had tried to comitt suicide themselves since experiencing domestic abuse

# Prevalence of Sexual Offending



# Prevalence of Sexual Assault

- Sexual offences have shown a **general upward trend** from a low of 1,167 recorded in 2000/01 to a high of 3,037 recorded in 2015/16; levels **have increased year on year since 2011/12**.
- The number of sexual offences recorded in 2015/16 shows an increase of **11.3 per cent** when compared with 2014/15 and is more than twice the level recorded in 2000/01.

# Prevalence of Sexual Assault

- Other sexual offences increased by 3.5 % from 2015/16-2016/17
- 11 % of victims attending the ROWEN from March 2016 to March 2017 were assaulted by previous or current intimate partners (underreported due to Section 5)

# Prevalence of Sexual Offending Rape Crisis / WHO

- Global estimates published by WHO indicate that about **1 in 3 (35%)** women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.
- Most of this violence is intimate partner violence. Worldwide, almost **one third (30%)** of women who have been in a relationship report that they have experienced some form of physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner in their lifetime.

# Literature and Research

# Literature and Research

- In sexual and domestic violence literature as well as within agencies, intimate partner sexual violence and the range of issues it carries as distinct from general sexual assault or domestic violence, has not been well defined.
- However over the past 20 years researchers were drawing attention to IPSV pointing out the need to be ware of the specific dynamics of intimate partner sexual violence

(Finkelhor & Yilo 1995, Russell, 1090)

# Literature and Research

- Problems with equating IPSV and general sexual assault issues.
- What we know about stranger sexual assault are often ill suited to IPSV victims.
- Finkelhor and Yilo 1995 write about “special traumas” of IPSV and tell us these special traumas need to be understood.

# Impact Issues Specific to IPSV

# Long Term Trauma

- Research reveals that the lack of recognition, victims difficulty in sharing the details of sexual assaults within relationships and fear of violence can impact significantly of the long term nature of the trauma.

(Finkelhor & Yilo 1985)



# Higher Levels of Physical Injury

- Higher levels of physical injury due to the frequency of the abuse, the repeated nature of injuries and the specific risk relating to victim access

(Myhill & Allen 2002)

# Incident of Multiply Sexual Assault

- Repeated Offences

(Myhill & Allan 2002)

# Higher levels of Anal and Oral Rape

- Victims have indicated that they view these forms of assault as a means to humiliate, punish and control them.

(Finkelhor & Yilo 1985)

# Messages that Increase Risk

- Victims hearing messages in relation to consent within a relationship.

(Adams 1995)

# Financial Dependency

- Victims solely reliant of partner financially leading to limited options to escape and report particularly when there are child or adult dependants

# Risk and Personal Safety Issues

- IPSV victims may need to seek refuge, court injunctions and statutory support

# Difficulty in Defining Abuse

- Difficulty in recognising and defining sexually abusive behaviours.
- Feelings towards the partner and not wanting to label them, particularly when there are child dependants

# Specific Risk Issues Associated with IPSV



# Potential Fatality

Research would suggest that victims being physically abused as well as sexually abused and in particular being raped are at an increased risk of being killed.

(Browne 1987, Campbell 1989)

# Deliberately Inflicting Pregnancy or STI

Pregnancy to force partners to return or remain in the relationship or to ensure future contact (Esteal 2006)

May force partners into unprotected sex to infect them with an STI (Wilson 1997)

# Psychological Effects

Due to repeated nature of abuse and the relationship with the perpetrator self esteem can be significantly impacted and a feeling of betrayal from someone they love.

# Challenges for Practitioners Working with IPSV

- Sexual element of offending potentially being viewed as simply another form of abuse
- Yet studies by Bergan highlighted that the sexual element of the abuse are deemed the most significant by victims

# Challenges for Practitioners Working with IPSV

- It is sometimes assumed that sexual assault is part of a violent relationship however many victims have disclosed no physical assaults out with the sexual assaults (Russel 1990)
- Gaps in assessments and support as IPSV is often addressed with similar strategies as either DV or SV and as a result can go undetected and unaddressed.

# Risk Assessment

Risk assessment is not an infallible science.

Eliminating risk entirely can never be achieved.

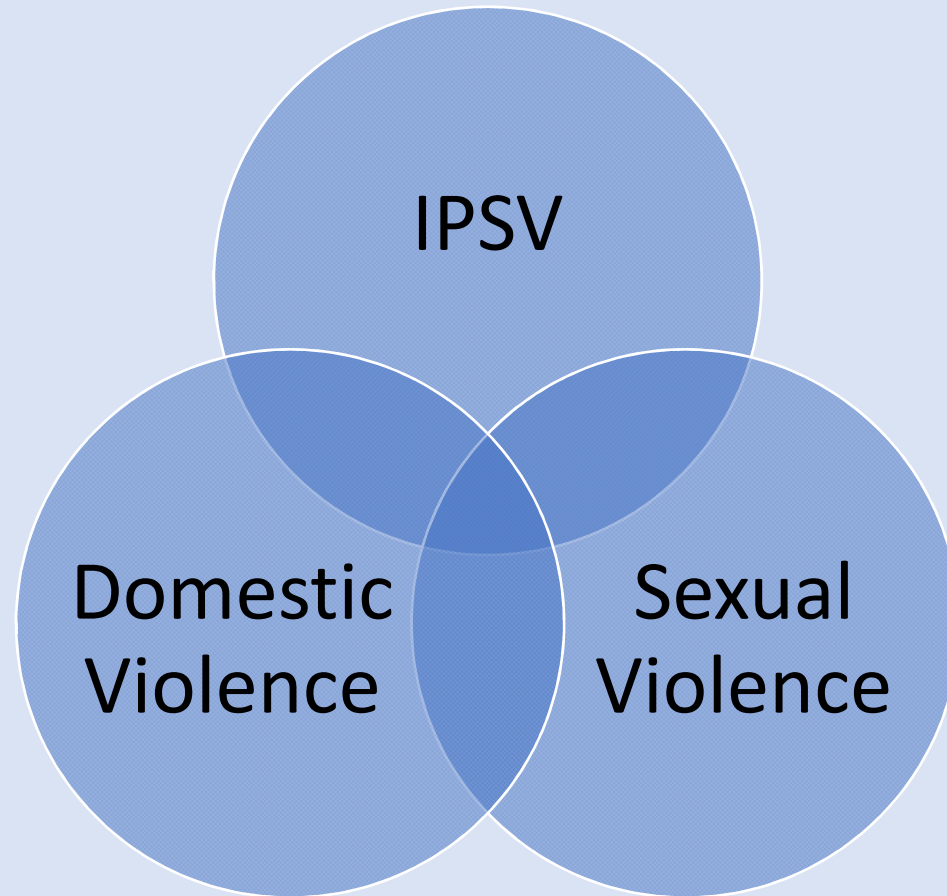
Risk management should be understood as harm reduction, either through the reduction of the likelihood of a risk occurring or the reduction of its impact should it occur.

# Three Generations of Risk Assessment

Don Andrews (1996)

- First Generation = “Clinical Judgement”
- Second Generation = “Actuarial Assessment”
- Third Generation = “Dynamic Assessment”

# Current Risk Assessment Tools





# Sexual Offending

- SARN-Structured Assessment of Risk and Need (SARN) assessments undertaken on sexual offenders. An evidence-based assessment of both treatment needs.
- Stable and Acute (Hanson and Harris) structured risk assessment tool, 16 items, combined with STATIC-99 into overall risk, empirically informed
- RM2K Risk Matrix 2000 (RM2000/S) is an evidence-based risk assessment tool, using static factors only, for men aged 18 and over with at least one conviction for a sexual offence. It is used by prisons, the police and probation. It predicts the likelihood of reconviction for a sexual or violent offence.

# Violent Offending

- RM2K- also assesses violent offending but not specific to Intimate Partner Violence
- DASH (2009)-Domestic Abuse Stalking and Honour Based Violence Risk Identification Assessment and Management Model
- SARA V3- Spousal Assault Risk Assessment where offending is linked to domestic abuse. It is a checklist that has been designed to screen for risk factors for spousal or family-related assault. It covers a range of static, dynamic and risk management factors

# Treatment Pathways for Assessment, Treatment and Monitoring of Offenders

# Treatment Pathways

- Challenge in assessing appropriate interventions specialising in this form of abuse
- Challenge of providing an integrated pathway
- Treatment intervention whilst including Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offending do not specifically target IPSV and the unique elements of that offending behaviour

# Supporting Victims and Families Impacted by IPVP

# Supporting victims and families impacted by IPSV

- Increasing practitioners awareness of the Context of IPSV
- Time being permitted to develop a report with the victim
- To ensure the questions asked of victims are supporting of them being able to disclose the sexual element of the abuse
- Providing advocates, victims are more likely to cooperate in the prosecution process

# Supporting victims and families impacted by IPSV

- Supporting victim with practical issues, housing, immigration status, childcare and financial support and specialist interventions such as counselling
- Permitting victims to make their own choices about the relationship with the offender
- Protective Parenting Assessment are sensitive to the victims trauma

# Implications for LGBT Victims of IPSV

- Society oppression of same sex relationships can increase victims isolation
- Many lack a strong support system due to families views re sexual orientation or that victims have not shared their sexuality with individuals within their friends and family



# Implications for LGBT Victims of IPSV

- Sexual orientation and “outing” may be used as a form of control against victim
- Potential feelings of additional judgement re sexual assault and sexual orientation
- Transgender Victims may lack opportunities to gain gender specific services such as shelters and safe homes

# Implications for Future Practice

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- Legal and Governmental joined up response based on victims and survivors experiences
- Collaboration across agencies and communities, task forces, strategic planning and service provision
- Specific questions need to be asked re sexual assault in intimate relationships in a sensitive manner and a range of methods to ensure victims identify abusive behaviours

# Implications for Future Practice

- Continued challenge of society myths
- Continue to develop the skills of practitioners and professionals in understanding the complexity of IPSV to encourage reporting, convictions and follow up support

# Implications for Future Practice

- Integrated Risk Assessment Tools and Treatment Interventions and training for professionals assessing, supervising and managing perpetrators
- Recording of statistics to record IPSV specifically
- Legal framework: specific DV Crimes, Homicide Reviews, Disclosure Scheme, Section 5 etc

Thankyou for Listening

Questions Welcome

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