

LGBT Community and Domestic Violence

challenges to protection, prevention and intervention

Research Networking Event

Wednesday 24th September 2014

Supported by IDVC

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Venue

De Montfort University
Faculty of Business and Law
Hugh Aston Building, POD
Room 5.12

Time

10am - 2pm

Event

Seminar 10am - 2pm

Speakers

Paul Fitzgerald, CEO of LGBT Centre, Leicester; Maria Sookias, Stonewall Housing and founder of the LGBT domestic abuse forum, London; Dr Michaela Rogers, University of Salford; Professor Catherine Donovan, University of Sunderland and Dr Becky Barnes, University of Leicester; Megan Todd, University of Central Lancashire; Vanessa Bettinson, De Montfort University

This event is free event



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Objectives

The issue of appropriate and effective responses to domestic violence and abuse has attracted significant international attention, with pan European and worldwide developments in policy informing legal regulations and the practices of statutory and community professionals. With the adoption of the Council of Europe's Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence in 2011, ratified and ready for enforcement in August this year, the importance of sharing good practice, inter agency communication and joint action to eradicate domestic violence is an integral part of European Community discourses. As knowledge and awareness of the diversity of victim experiences broadens, sexual orientation has emerged as an integral part of this debate. Whilst every victim's experience is unique there are some commonalities to be drawn from the experiences of members of the LGBT community in terms of the characteristics of the abuse and access to appropriate interventions and support. The extent to which current legal, statutory and community tools for protection, prevention and intervention are sensitive to these differences is contended.

This research networking event seeks to build upon opportunities arising from the Interdisciplinary Domestic Violence Conference (IDVC) held at De Montfort University in December 2013. This earlier event brought together academics, students, statutory, legal and community professionals to discuss the challenges of working together to achieve better responses for domestic violence victims. The conference community highlighted a series of themes particular to certain victim groups, which warrant further in depth exploration in relation to the occurrence of abuse, legal and community responses

This seminar is an opportunity for the conversation to continue. It is envisaged that it will be the first in a series of seminar events to focus on more specific challenges of protection, prevention and intervention in cases of domestic violence, starting here with the experiences of victims and perpetrators from the LGBT community. It provides an interdisciplinary forum to examine partnership and multi agency strategies for prevention, protection and intervention practices.

LGBT Seminar event objectives

- Raising awareness of the particular issues experienced by members of the LGBT community in relation to domestic violence and abuse.
- The identification of regulatory and practical implementation challenges in relation to legal and policy provisions and the experiences of domestic violence by the LGBT community.
- An evaluation of the extent to which sexual orientation is legitimately accommodated within legal structures, statutory and community based responses to domestic violence and abuse.
- An exploration of how a proactive dialogue with LGBT community groups on the issue of domestic violence and abuse can be sustained
- A discussion of possible frameworks that may be developed to continue research, policy and practice developments in this arena.

Format

A series of presentations by academics, practitioners and campaigners, followed by opportunities for group discussion.

Continued debate on IDVC Twitter link @IDVC2013