

## Conference Programme- Speakers' Information

### Keynote Speakers

#### **Dr. Bríd Featherstone, Professor of Social Work, Open University, Milton Keynes, England**

**Title of Presentation:** Launch of *The Non Violent Resistance Handbook for Practitioners*

Bríd has been qualified as a social worker since the early 1980s and worked with young offenders and in child protection. She carried out extensive research with parents, mothers and fathers, on their experiences of child protection processes. Her publications include *Contemporary Fathering: Theory, Policy and Practice* published by Policy Press in 2009 and *Re-imagining child protection: towards humane social work with families* also published by Policy Press in April, 2014.

**Hopes for the Conference:** Bríd hopes the conference will offer a reflective space for all to engage with a complex and contested topic and that she will acquaint herself with the latest research on interventions and the latest theoretical and conceptual debates.

#### **Dr. Caroline McGregor, Professor at the School of Political Science and Sociology, NUI Galway**

**Title of Presentation:** Welcoming Delegates to the Conference

Caroline has lead responsibility for Social Work in the School and is Director of the MA in Social Work Programme. Her research interests include: child protection and welfare social work; history of the present methodologies; critical social theory and young people leaving care.

**Hopes for conference:** Caroline hopes that all of the participants have a fruitful and engaging experience which will lead to further on-going development of ideas, research and intervention approaches in relation to this challenging social problem. She also hopes, especially for those new to NUI Galway, that we will have good weather and that they will have an excellent experience of being a guest in the city and at the university.

**Mr. Eddie Gallagher, Psychologist, Social Worker, Family Therapist, Melbourne, Australia**

**Title of Presentation:** Violence to Parents: The Blame Game

Eddie has been working for 40 years with families and young people, interested in family violence for most of that time. For the past 20 years he has been working with families where there is violence towards parents. He has clinical data on over 400 families where children are abusing parents and has presented many times on this subject.

**Hopes for conference:** Eddie hopes to spread the word on the seriousness of violence to parents and reduce some of the knee-jerk parent-blaming attitudes that can be common. He also hopes to learn about the Irish scene and learn more on Omer's parental presence and non-violent resistance approach.

**Ms. Michelle Pooley, Daphne Responding to Child to Parent Violence Co-ordinator and Break4Change Co-ordinator, Brighton & Hove City Council, England**

**Title of presentation:** Transforming our Lives: developing respectful relationships between children and parents/carers

Since 2013, Michelle has co-ordinated the Daphne Responding to Child to Parent Violence (RCPV) programme for Brighton & Hove City Council and was one of the co-writers of the bid that gained this European Union funding. Michelle has led and supported the development of the Break4Change group based model since 2009 in Brighton & Hove. Michelle is a community development, domestic and sexual violence practitioner. She has also worked in and managed a number of non-government organisations and worked as the Domestic Violence Strategic Co-ordinator for Brighton & Hove City Council. She has a Masters in Public Service Partnership and Management. She is interested in how family violence and parenting affects children and is particularly interested in how this complex area of child to parent violence deals with the protection of children whilst acknowledging intrafamily violence within all family contexts.

**Hopes for the conference:** The Daphne RCPV Galway Conference marks the 18<sup>th</sup> month of this European Project and therefore Michelle hopes that this conference will help all partners to share the learning that each country has experienced in researching and delivering successful interventions to address Child to Parent Violence. She hopes also that all participants at the conference whether here to listen or speak on a panel or present at a workshop will feel able to give feedback and contribute experiences of what constitutes child to parent violence. In doing this she hopes that the Galway conference will act as a catalyst to further help refine the work on Child to Parent Violence and help to develop effective networking between practitioners across Europe.

**Ms. Norah Gibbons, Chairperson, Child and Family Agency, Ireland**

**Title of presentation:** Official Opening of the Conference

Norah worked for many years in social work in both the statutory and voluntary sectors in England and Ireland. She was the Director of Advocacy at Barnardos from 2005 to 2012. She was a member of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse from 2000-2009. She chaired the Confidential Committee of the Commission from 2000 to 2005, and the Roscommon Child Abuse Inquiry in 2009. She co-chaired the Independent Child Death Review Group with Dr Geoffrey Shannon from 2011 to 2012. She was a member of the Taskforce on the Establishment of the Child and Family Agency. She is currently a member of Acknowledgement Forum of Historical Abuse Inquiry in Northern Ireland.

**Hopes for the conference:** Norah hopes the conference will give delegates information that they can take away with them to implement in their practice. It is also hoped that policy makers and researchers will find new ideas and build on their present knowledge base.

**Dr. Paula S. Wilcox, Reader in Criminology, University of Brighton, England**

**Title of presentation:** The Responding to Child to Parent Violence (RCPV) Project

Paula Wilcox researches and publishes in the fields of violence against women and family violence. She has led over ten funded research projects and has over twenty publications. She is active in the European Society for Criminology and the International Sociological Association (ISA) and chaired the 'Cultural Criminology' strand at the XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology, RC29 Deviance and Social Control, Gothenburg, Sweden, 11-17 July 2010. She is currently Principal Investigator for the European Union Daphne funded research project 'Responding to Child to Parent Violence' 2013-15.

**Hopes for the conference:** Paula's aim is that the conference will raise awareness of the issue of Child to Parent Violence (CPV) not only in the Republic of Ireland but across other European countries. She would want it to increase our understanding of how practitioners are currently responding and the difficulties they face with little training, scarce support and few resources. In the longer term her hope is that this conference will spark exciting new thinking on policy and practice around CPV at national and European levels.

## **Dr. Peter Jakob, Consultant Clinical Psychologist / Systemic Family Therapist, England**

**Title of presentation:** Non Violent Resistance and a Focus on the Child: reconciliation in the service of restoring ruptured relationships while effectively resisting harmful behaviour

Peter is a clinical psychologist and systemic therapist with over 30 years of experience with trauma and abuse. Having introduced NVR to the UK, he has adapted the approach for heavily traumatised, multi-stressed families. His work with looked-after children has inspired him to develop a child focus in NVR. Peter is a prolific national and international presenter.

**Hopes for the conference:** Peter would like to see the conference sensitise delegates for the problem of child to parent violence and the harm it brings for all involved. He hopes that the conference will encourage them to adopt specific methodologies that are both effective and adaptable, while also respectful of parents and children, and restorative of their relationships.

## **Ms. Rita O'Reilly, CEO Parentline, Ireland**

**Title of presentation:** From a Parent's Perspective

Parentline is a national helpline for parents - offering support, information and guidance on all aspects of parenting in confidence and without judgement. Since it opened more than thirty years ago more than 100,000 parents have called the organisation. Parentline is well placed to identify the issues that concern parents and to recognise the changing trends in those issues. Rita has been CEO of Parentline for 12 years. Before joining Parentline, she worked in marketing in PMPA Insurance and in the Football Association of Ireland. Rita's qualifications are in Marketing and Business.

**Hopes for the conference:** There are many aspects of parenting that parents struggle with but violence in the home, particularly when it is targeted at the parent is one of the most difficult. Many parents live with silence and shame and can see no way out. Parentline see this conference as an opportunity to let parents know that things can change and to encourage them to seek help. We want parents and families to know it is 'ok' to ask for help.

## **Workshops Speakers**

### **Workshop title: Challenging childhood aggression using the Parents Plus Programmes**

**Presenter:** Dr. John Sharry, Founder Parents Plus Charity/Principal Social Worker CAMHS HSE Dublin North East

Dr John Sharry is a Principal Social Worker in Child and Adolescent Mental Health, adjunct Senior Lecturer in the School of Psychology University College Dublin and co-developer of the evidence-based Parents Plus Programmes. He is the best selling author of ten positive psychology and self-help books for families and a weekly health columnist for *The Irish Times* Newspaper.

### **Workshop Title: The Long Reach - Child to Parent Violence in the context of Domestic Violence**

**Presenters:** Ms. Jackie Carroll, Domestic Violence Outreach Worker, Ms. Ciara Tyrrell, Senior Childcare Worker and Wendy Heuston, Manager at COPE Galway Domestic Violence Refuge and Outreach Service.

Jackie Carroll has a Qualification in Social Care from the Dublin Institute of Technology. She has over 20 years' experience working in the area of Domestic Violence. She also has a qualification in training and education from NUI Galway.

Ciara Tyrrell has a Qualification in Social Care from the Athlone Institute of Technology. Her experience includes working in residential care with young adults and supporting families in the community. She has over 16 years' experience in the area of Domestic Violence.

Wendy Heuston has a Qualification in Education from NUI Galway. She taught for 3 years in West Africa and later in Galway City. She was a counsellor with the Galway Rape Crisis Centre and a Support worker with Homeless Women and Women experiencing Domestic Violence.

### **Workshop Title: Power2Change Programme**

**Presenters:** Ms. Karyn Cronin, Ms. Michelle Moran and others

More information to follow