

NUI Galway Raises Awareness on Child to Parent Violence with International Conference

Monday, 26 May, 2014: NUI Galway will host the *Child to Parent Violence: Innovations in Practice, Policy and Research* conference, bringing together a variety of national and international speakers. The conference, which will take place from 12-13 June, aims to raise awareness and to share information about best practice when it comes to responding to the problem of child to parent violence.

Parents living with child to parent violence (where a son or daughter under the age of 18 years uses violence and controlling behaviour towards parents) often feel alone, frightened, ashamed and do not know where to turn for help. Practitioners, researchers and policy makers are often uncertain about how best to respond to the emerging problem of child to parent violence.

The conference is part of the EU funded DAPHNE programme across five countries called the Responding to Child to Parent Violence (RCPV) project. The RCPV project team consists of a team of international academics and practitioners led by Dr Paula Wilcox at the University of Brighton. The RCPV aims to reflect a wide range of expertise on intervening with child to parent violence, (CPV) as well as geographical and cultural diversity across Europe.

Dr Paula Wilcox will be one of the keynote speakers at the conference, which will also include: Peter Jakob, Partnership Projects, UK; Eddie Gallagher, Who's in Charge, Australia; Michelle Pooley, Brighton and Hove City Council; Rita O' Reilly, Parentline; Dr John Sharry, Parents Plus; and Norah Gibbons, Chairperson of Tusla – the Child and Family Agency. The conference is booked out with 200 practitioners, academics and policy makers scheduled to attend.

Declan Coogan, lecturer in social work in the School of Political Science and Sociology at NUI Galway is the RCPV Project Leader for Ireland. Waterside House COPE Galway, the Domestic Violence Refuge and Centre in Galway, is also part of the project as a local community partner.

Mr Coogan said, "More and more parents are talking about child to parent violence which has been a hidden but growing social problem in Ireland and across Europe. Practitioners working with families in Ireland are increasingly hearing parents describing their experiences of child to parent violence. The conference will assist Social Workers, Psychologists, Psychotherapists, Juvenile Justice Practitioners and others working with children and families across a range of services increase their awareness and skills development when faced with child to parent violence. The conference is also aimed at academics, researchers and policy makers as we try to better understand and respond to this problem throughout Europe."

One of the responses to CPV in Ireland is the Non Violent Resistance programme adapted for use in Ireland by Declan Coogan. This intervention is being used by a number of agencies in one to one and group settings with two day training in the programme being rolled out since last year. *The Non Violent Resistance Handbook for Practitioners* will also be launched at the end of the conference.

With financial support from the DAPHNE programme of the European Union.

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Notes to Editors:

For more information on the conference contact Declan Coogan at declanp.coogan@nuigalway.ie or 091 495373, or Eileen Lauster at 091 495401 or eileen.lauster@nuigalway.ie. More information about the RCPV project is available at: www.rcpv.eu and www.cpvireland.ie

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NUI Galway is a research-led University with internationally recognised expertise in areas including Biomedical Science and Engineering, Web Science, Human Rights, Marine Science, Energy and Environmental Science, Applied Social Sciences and Public Policy, and Humanities, in particular literature, theatre and Irish Studies.

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