



8th International EFJCA Conference

Building safety together

Engaging Men and Boys, Preventing Femicide
and Advancing Risk Management in Integrated
Responses to Violence Against Women

Portlaoise, Ireland — 30 November & 1 December 2026



The EFJCA and Laois Domestic Abuse Service, together with valued local partners, welcome you to the 8th International EFJCA Conference in Portlaoise, Ireland, on 30 November and 1 December 2026.

As Europe continues to strengthen its response to gender-based violence and domestic violence, new challenges and opportunities are emerging. While multi-disciplinary collaboration remains at the heart of effective intervention, increasing attention is being given to the prevention of femicide, the identification and management of high-risk cases, the engagement of men and boys as allies in prevention, and the need for stronger accountability and behavioural change among perpetrators.

The conference programme combines keynote presentations, expert panel discussions and interactive Q&A sessions, offering participants both in-depth knowledge and practical opportunities for exchange and reflection. Over the course of two days, the conference will bring together internationally recognised speakers and experts from a wide range of disciplines, including academia, medicine, law, public policy, Family Justice Centers, perpetrator programmes and prevention initiatives. Participants will hear from leading researchers, policymakers and practitioners working at the forefront of violence prevention, victim safety and multidisciplinary intervention.

The programme is organised around four themes:

Family Justice Centres and Multi-Agency Working explores coordinated practice and the role of survivor perspectives in shaping effective responses.

Working with Perpetrators, Engaging Men and Boys, and Bystander Action examines perpetrator accountability, prevention and community responsibility.

Femicide, Risk Assessment and Risk Management, and Forced Suicides brings together research and practice on recognising risk, preventing serious harm and improving responses.

Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Emerging Forms of Abuse addresses sexual violence and exploitation, non-fatal strangulation, abuse during and after pregnancy, and technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

Together, these sessions offer space to share knowledge, reflect on practice and strengthen the partnerships needed to build safer communities.

Practical information

Date: Monday, 30/11 – 1/12 2026

Time: 09.00-17:00 GMT (Dublin Time)
10:00-18:00 CET (Brussels time)

Venue: Midlands Park Hotel
Jessop street, Portlaoise – Ireland

Participation: in person and online

Language: English

Participation fee: € 160 in person, € 75 online

Free of charge for Irish participants.

Lunch: to be ordered during registration

Register on www.efjca.eu



Participation
in person
and online
is possible.

Join us in Portlaoise for two days of learning, inspiration and cooperation as we work together to build safer communities, prevent femicide, engage men and boys, and strengthen coordinated responses to violence against women and domestic violence.



Laois Domestic
Abuse Service



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For questions or expressions of interest, please
contact us at info@efjca.eu

8th international EFJCA Conference
Program Day One — 30 November 2026

Family Justice Centres and Multi-Agency Working

- 09.00** Registration
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- 09.30** Welcome and Start-Up
Bert Groen, president EFJCA;
Marna Carroll, Director Laois Domestic Abuse Center;
Pascale Franck, vice-president EFJCA;
Ellen O'Malley-Dunlop, Adjunct Professor UL, Former CEO of DRCC and member of GREVIO
-
- 09.40** Address by the Minister of Justice, Ireland
Minister O'Callaghan
-
- 09.55** Address by CUAN
Dr Stephanie O'Keefe
-
- 10.05** Gender-based violence: EU policy context
Maria Popova, Policy Assistant in the Gender Equality unit of DG JUST
-
- 10.15** Local authority
(TBC)
-
- 10.25** The Istanbul Convention
Marijke Weewauters, Institute for Equality between Women and Men
-
- 10.35** Voices from Ireland and the EFJCA Voices network
Mary-Louise Lynch, SiSi, collective of women survivors of intimate partner violence
Carine Van Hee, Voice EFJCA
-
- 11.00** Coffee break
-
- 11.30** Panel – Family Justice Centres and multi-agency practice
Moderator: Bert Groen
11.15 - 11.45 Family Justice Centre practice
Marie Brown, CEO FJC Foyle
11.45 - 12.00 Same goal, different paths: multi-agency practice across Europe
Dries Wyckmans, advisor Safe Houses Flemish government
12.00 - 12.15 Voices reflections on multi-agency working
Carine Van Hee and Mary-Louise Lynch
12.15 - 12.30 Moderated discussion and audience Q&A
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- 12.30** Lunch break
-
- Working with Perpetrators, Engaging Men and Boys, and Bystander Action**
- 13.45** Engaging men and boys and working with perpetrators
Sean Cooke, CEO Men's Development Network
-
- 14.25** Empowering Bystanders: An all of community response to Ending Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence
Louise Crowley, Professor in the School of Law and Director of the LLM (Children's Rights and Family Law) at UCC
-
- 15.05** Coffee break
-
- 15.35** Panel – Practice and perspectives
Moderator: Ellen O'Malley-Dunlop
15.35 - 15.50 Optimizing the potential for sustainable behaviour change in work with Perpetrators – *John Doyle, Independent Consultant and Psychotherapist*
15.50 - 16.05 Who Can a Man Call Before the Violence Escalates?
Alessandra Paunz, director European Network Work with Perpetrators
16.05 - 16.20 [Presentation title]
16.20 - 16.45 Moderated discussion and audience Q&A
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- 16.45** Closing reflections: Michelle Walsh
Bert Groen, Marna Carroll and Pascale Franck
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- 17.00** End



8th international EFJCA Conference
Program Day Two – 1 December 2026

**Femicide, Risk Assessment and Risk Management,
and Forced Suicides**

09.00 Registration

09.30 Welcome and introduction
Bert Groen, Marna Carroll and Pascale Franck

09.40 The Family Justice Response to Allegations of Domestic Abuse: The Findings of a Six Country Empirical Study in Europe
Shazia Choudry, Professor of Law at the University of Oxford

10.20 Are DARDs a feminist endeavour or a tool of the State?
Davina James-Hanman, Violence against Women Consultant

11.00 Q&A with the keynote speakers

11.15 Coffee break

11.45 Panel – Research, justice and practice
Moderator: Frances Fitzgerald ...

11.45 - 12.00 Hidden violence: an exploration of domestic violence in women who died by suicide – *Floor Van Dalen, Forensic Psychologist PHD candidate Leiden University*

12.00 - 12.15 Non fatal strangulation: new research – *Jack Menke*

12.15 - 12.30 Can she trust the State? Femicide, justice and the responsibility to protect
Jolande Ter Averest, Family Lawyer

12.30 - 12.45 Risk assessment and risk management in cases involving severe domestic violence and potential femicide
Joëlle Tetart, Coordinator of DIViCo for the judicial district of Liège

12.45 - 13.00 Moderated discussion and audience Q&A

13.00 Lunch break

Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Emerging Forms of Abuse

14.15 The Support Needs of Survivors of DSGBV: Developing Integrated, Best Practice Responses within the Criminal Justice System
Susan Leahy, Professor, Centre for Crime, Justice and Victim Studies, School of Law, University of Limerick

14.40 The role of pornography in fueling violence against women & girls: A focus on sexual strangulation – *Ruth Breslin, Director SERP*

15.05 Non-fatal strangulation in the context of domestic abuse – long term health consequences of domestic abuse
Catherine White, Professor Catherine White, Medical Director, Institute for Addressing Strangulation

15.30 Coffee break

16.00 Screening for domestic violence
(TBC)

16.25 Designed to Harm? Technology, AI and Gendered Violence
Maria Bjarnadottir, lead academic in the field of IT law Reykjavik University

16.45 Conference closing
Bert Groen, Marna Carroll and Pascale Franck

17.00 End

