

RESPECT  
INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE  
1ST JUNE 2005



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## Conference Report

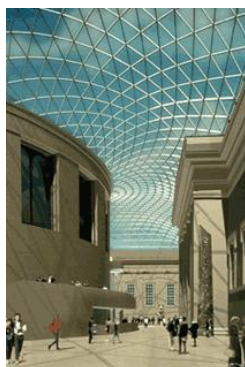
### Jo Todd, Respect



Jo Todd, Respect

*Changing Behaviour, Managing Risk* was Respect's first conference and with the help of funding from Lankelly Chase, we were able to secure the British Museum as our venue and to pay for Dr Edward Gondolf to fly over from the Mid-Atlantic Addiction Training Institute (MAATI) at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania in the United States. All of us at Respect were delighted that he was able to join us for our first ever conference, giving those of us working in the UK the first opportunity to hear him speak about his work.

The conference, chaired by Anthony Wills of the Local Government Association, explored different ways of working with perpetrators in order to keep women and children safe. I began by giving an overview of perpetrator work in the UK, outlining Respect's safety focused model of best practice and highlighting the need to integrate interventions with perpetrators into local and national domestic violence strategy. For more information see Respect's *Statement of Principles and Minimum Standards of Practice*.



British Museum



Dr Edward Gondolf, MAATI

Dr Gondolf's keynote speech was extremely thought-provoking. He held everyone's attention for an hour and a half (no mean feat!) with an energetic and informative mix of theory, presentation of his research findings and question and answer sessions. His research will help inform perpetrator

programme developments in the UK, with both convicted and non-convicted perpetrators. (see p6-7 for the full report).

Our next speaker was Poonam Joshi, Gender Policy Advisor for Amnesty International UK (AIUK), who gave an overview of Amnesty's *Stop Violence Against Women* campaign.



Poonam Joshi, AIUK

Poonam showed three short film clips designed specifically to engage men on the issue of violence against women. She spoke about the ups and downs of the campaign, how work with men is a key part of any violence against women strategy, and Amnesty's plans for future campaigning on these issues. It was great to hear that AIUK is taking violence against women seriously and seeing it as a human rights issue. (see p8-9).

The afternoon session began with 6 specialist fora (see p12-17) covering a wide range of issues:

- Specialist risk assessment for the family courts
- Working with male perpetrators from BME communities
- Keeping women and children safe when working with perpetrators
- Frontline interventions with perpetrators
- Criminal Justice System perpetrator programmes– different approaches from Scotland and England & Wales
- Promoting positive, safe fathering when working with abusive men



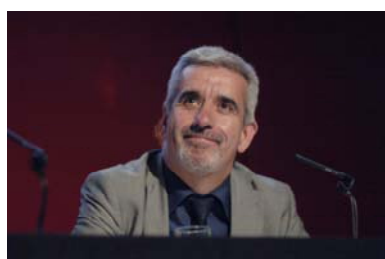
The 'Fool', Geese Theatre Company

The specialist fora were followed by a lively, interactive theatre performance by Geese Theatre Company, called *Connected*. Anyone who has seen Geese Theatre before knows that audience participation is definitely required. Those brave (or foolish) people who sat near the front of the auditorium were at the mercy of the Master of Ceremonies (or 'Fool').

In *Connected*, Geese Theatre used masked characters to play out a range of scenarios between a perpetrator, his partner and child and the range of professionals that they have contact with. At key moments the audience was invited to discuss the scenarios in small groups, to explore good practice issues and suggest what effective interventions would look like. Hopefully everyone went away with a better sense of the possibilities for intervention (and what not to do!) and had some fun in the process. (See p18-19)



*Masked characters*



*John Dunworth, Home Office*

John Dunworth, head of the Domestic Violence Team Virtual Unit at the Home Office gave the final presentation of the day, with an overview of the national action plan, outlining what the Government is doing to address domestic violence. It was very useful to hear where the Government is at, and also to have the opportunity to ask questions and raise issues for the Domestic Violence Team at the Home Office to consider in their future developments.

The day ended with a question and answer panel, chaired by Anthony Wills and including Dr Gondolf, myself, John Dunworth and Linda Regan, a researcher at the Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit at London Metropolitan University.



*the Q&A panel*

The audience took full advantage of the chance to quiz the panel—in particular raising the issue of the need for a national domestic violence strategy for England (Scotland and Wales already have strategies).

Finally, here's a reminder of **Respect's wishlist** which I presented to the conference. We would like to see:

- Increased capacity & accessibility of perpetrator programmes—one for every local authority
- Accreditation of perpetrator programmes and associated support services, to ensure best practice
- Research and development of specialist services for perpetrators in same-sex relationships and their partners and for female perpetrators / male victims
- Research and development of work and services which are relevant to clients from all racial, cultural and social backgrounds
- More UK based research into the effectiveness of perpetrator interventions
- Development of effective early interventions with perpetrators by frontline professionals

I want to thank everyone who attended the conference for helping to make it such a successful day. In particular I'd like to thank Frank Dixon, Respect's Finance & Information Officer, who took on the daunting task of organising the conference for us. He and Charlie Blake (who has since become Respect's Administration Officer) had a few very late nights in the run up to the big day—and despite the fact that he mutters “never again!” whenever conferences are mentioned I know he is extremely pleased with how the day went. And thanks to our speakers, all the people who ran workshops, and everyone who worked so hard behind the scenes. The whole event had a great buzz about it and the evaluations we received were overwhelmingly positive.



*Frank Dixon, Respect*

I'm delighted to report that since the conference, the Home Office have agreed to fund Respect to develop accreditation for perpetrator programmes and associated support services. It's fantastic that we are already seeing positive outcomes.

Respect will continue to lobby for more resources for the whole domestic violence sector. It is our aim that more and more effective interventions with perpetrators are developed, which help to change behaviour, manage risk and ultimately increase safety and improve the lives of women and children living with domestic violence.

## ***The effectiveness of perpetrator programmes – what we know and where we go from here***

**Dr Edward Gondolf  
Mid-Atlantic Addiction Training Institute  
(MAATI), Indiana University of  
Pennsylvania**



*Dr Edward Gondolf*

Dr Edward Gondolf was responsible for conducting the most comprehensive piece of research into domestic violence perpetrator programmes anywhere in the world. He is the author of many books and articles on domestic violence, including "Batterer Intervention Systems" (2004).

Ed gave a lively presentation, outlining the research findings from his multi-site evaluation of batterer intervention in the US.

His one and a half hour presentation kept everyone's attention and included vigorous question and answer sessions interspersed throughout.

### **Key conclusions of the research:**

1) The three experimental evaluations and two major meta-analysis show very weak or no effect from batterer programmes compared to open probation, but his review of these reveals limitations and flaws that must be weighed in interpreting and applying these results.

2) The alternative multi-site evaluations attempt to compensate for many of the previous shortcomings and moves beyond the "bottom line" of little or no effect. It illustrates that a broader view of evaluation is needed and useful.

3) The main finding from a four-year follow-up with batterers' partners is that the vast majority of men did eventually stop their violence and decrease their non-physical abuse after intervention.

4) Batterer counselling had an "effect" on this outcome, but programme length by itself did not appear to contribute. We need to consider programme supports (e.g., how to keep men from dropping out of longer programmes) along with length. We may also need more programme intensity at start for some men rather than just a longer programme.

5) The conventional cognitive-behavioural approach appears appropriate for the majority of men based on psychological profiles and programme outcomes.

6) A core of men repeated violence and were the most harmful (about 20%). Women's ratings were the best predictor of these men. The men did not otherwise fit a type or profile (except that they were more likely to be previously violent, drunk during follow-up, or show signs of mental illness). Further investigation of these cases shows a lack of system response to repeat offenders.

7) Risk assessment is now the big pursuit--that is, identification of the most dangerous men. Risk assessment instruments do improve correct identification over clinical observation, but they must be used with caution since their correct prediction is still weak. Researchers tend to recommend on-going risk management as an alternative to static front-end assessment instruments.

8) The clinical trial of culturally-focused counselling for African-American men shows no difference in outcomes compared to conventional batterer counselling in all African-American groups and racially-mixed groups. The cultural attitudes of the men need more consideration along with the programme's affiliation and positioning in the community.

9) Systematic referral also has not improved outcomes. This may be in part due to the lack of mandated attendance to referrals, lack of case management and follow-up, and inadequate and understaffed referrals sources. More system development is needed in this

regard.



*Questions from the floor*

### **Anomalies and problems**

Ed was keen to point out the problems he faced in the research and advised caution in jumping to hasty conclusions.

He highlighted the difficulty in determining effectiveness—what does it really mean? Is a perpetrator programme successful if a man doesn't re-assault his wife, but still continues to abuse her in other ways?

Some men dropped out of the programme without completing it—how reliable would data relating to effectiveness of the intervention be in these cases?

Also there were clear anomalies in some of the research findings. For example one finding was that programmes take time to take effect, while another was that longer programmes are not necessarily more effective.

Ed stressed that more research is needed—and Respect would certainly like to see some UK based research taking forward some of the questions his research has raised.

### **The need for a coordinated community response**

One of Ed's main findings is something that came as no surprise to those of us who have been in the domestic violence field for a long time—it is the system that is key.

As reflected in our conference title, interventions with perpetrators need to focus on both changing behaviour and managing risk, For this an integrated system is needed, with the safety of women and children at its centre.

### **Next Steps**

All of this gives us at Respect much food for thought. We're pleased to announce that since the conference, the Home Office and Lankelly Chase have agreed to joint fund Respect to develop accreditation for domestic violence perpetrator programmes and associated support services. We will be consulting widely with members and other stakeholders to ensure that the standards and principles that underpin accreditation reflect current best practice.



*Dr Edward Gondolf*

For a detailed account of Dr Gondolf's study and its implications see his book *Batterer Intervention Systems: Issues, Outcomes, and Recommendations* (Sage Publications, 2002).

The "Conclusion" chapter of the book is also available at [www.iup.edu/maati/publications](http://www.iup.edu/maati/publications), and his article "Evaluating Batterer Counselling Programmes: A Difficult Task Showing Some Effects and Implications," in *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, Vol. 9, 2004, pp. 605-631) offers a convenient summary of the study.

Also see Respect's Autumn newsletter for a detailed review of Ed Gondolf presentation by Mark Farrall, Respect Executive Committee.

# STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



## ***Problem? What problem?***

**Poonam Joshi,  
Amnesty International UK**



*Poonam Joshi, AIUK*

Poonam Joshi, Gender Policy Advisor for Amnesty International UK (AIUK), spoke about Amnesty's global *Stop Violence Against Women* campaign which is being run between 2004 and 2010 and has the participation of over 65 Sections across the world.

The campaign calls on governments, groups and individuals to act to end violence against women.

Some common principles include:

- Working in alliance with women's organisations
- Challenging attitudes towards violence against women
- Seeking the engagement of men

The campaign aims to hold governments to account for violence against women whether perpetrated by state actors or private individuals, and to profile the work and rights of human rights defenders at the forefront of the struggle to end violence against women

The key element of the UK campaign is to challenge the attitudes that tolerate and perpetuate violence against women in the UK, by:

- Enabling individuals to realise that

violence against women directly affects their lives

- Creating a debate around those attitudes that tolerate, accept and justify violence against women
- Creating a platform for men to reject violence against women

AIUK carried out some research to gauge attitudes to violence against women. They found that there was:

- A strong unwillingness to talk or think about violence against women
- Sophisticated avoidance techniques
- Superficial responses
- Usual negative stereotypes and myths including blaming women
- Anger at being made to feel guilty or to blame
- Refusal to believe the statistics
- Acknowledgement of seriousness, but then inertia

Based on these findings, AIUK devised a campaign entitled *Problem? What problem?* which directly aimed to engage and challenge its audience.

*Problem? What Problem? included the Cachez poster campaign.*



*Cachez poster*

These ads were for a (fake) brand of cosmetics developed for women who have suffered physical abuse.



*Cachez poster on the London Underground*

The posters carried the Amnesty logo at the bottom to ensure that survivors of violence were clear that this was a spoof poster. 100 posters were displayed on the London Underground to launch AIUK's *Stop Violence Against Women* campaign.

Another element of the campaign were the *Real Love* short films. These were short (90 second) spoof-style documentaries depicting people talking about relationships that are obviously abusive.

Poonam showed three of these short films to the conference. They included a father, a male neighbour and a female employer. Each film ends with a fact and statistic about violence against women and the endline *Problem? What problem?*

These films—plus one other of a victim—were piloted in a film booth at Bluewater shopping centre in Kent, in the run up to Valentine's day. The booths were staffed by volunteers and were aimed at young men, who were invited to view the film in the booth on their own wearing headphones. In one week they were viewed by over 300 young men.

There was a generally positive response, including the following comments:

- “you just don't hear about these things, but these make the point perfectly”
- (very stunned) “Wow, you just don't realise people are using these excuses and justifications. It's very frightening”
- “very powerful stuff. God, I never

*realised. Everyone should see these”*

AIUK found that surprising numbers of men initiated conversations about the issue, which was unexpected based on research that shows that most men don't like to talk about violence against women. AIUK believe that this is because of the personal nature of the viewing which provided a platform of permission and a safe space for men to speak about the issues. They will be using these findings to help shape future campaigns.

*Problem? What Problem?* also included a music video, activist pack and website which has links to the main AIUK site.

Campaigning on violence against women issues is challenging. AIUK have identified some of these challenges including:

- Responsible campaigning: ensuring support for victims
- Getting the message across & getting it right
- Targeting men without exploiting women

The *Stop Violence Against Women Campaign* is moving forward with the *Imagine a World...* exercise. AIUK are asking everyone - men, women, children and young people from all over the UK - to imagine a world without violence against women and girls; to think about how violence against women impacts negatively on their lives and how their lives would be different if gendered violence did not exist.

If you would like to contribute to this campaign go to their website:  
<http://www.amnesty.org.uk/svaw/imagine/>

For more information on the *Problem? What Problem?* campaign go to AIUK's website: <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/svaw/pwp/index.shtml>



## ***The National Delivery Plan for Domestic Violence***

**John Dunworth, Home Office**



John Dunworth, is head of the Domestic Violence Team Virtual Unit at the Home Office. He gave a presentation explaining the government's *National Delivery Plan for Domestic Violence* for England and Wales.



*John Dunworth, Home Office*

John began by highlighting some key statistics:

- 1 in 4 women will suffer domestic violence
- One incident is reported to the police every minute
- DV accounts for 16-25% of all violent crime
- 30% of DV starts or escalates during pregnancy

The Women and Equality Unit has published research into the economic costs of domestic violence [*The Cost of Domestic Violence*, Walby, S (2004)] which revealed that domestic violence currently costs the treasury in England and Wales is approximately £23billion per year. This breaks down as follows:

- £3bn on public services
- £1bn Criminal Justice System
- £1.2bn National Health Service
- £0.25bn Social Services
- £160m housing
- £300m civil legal services
- £2.7bn lost economic output

Additionally there is a human and emotional cost of over £15bn.

John explained how domestic violence has been moving up the political agenda over the last few years and is now being regarded as a serious social problem.

Government action on domestic violence is led by an Inter-Ministerial Group on Domestic Violence, set up in 2003.

This Group is chaired by Home Office Minister Baroness Scotland, QC. It includes Ministers from key Departments, including Constitutional Affairs, the Solicitor General, Health, Education, DTI, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, and Work and Pensions. Wales and Northern Ireland are also represented. This is to provide a joined-up and robust programme of work.

The Government's strategic approach to tackling domestic violence was set out in the consultation paper *Safety & Justice*. This approach has led to the Domestic Violence, Crime & Victims Act 2004, the biggest piece of legislation on domestic violence in over 30 years.

The Inter-ministerial group has published a definition of domestic violence to be used across government and its agencies. This follows the definition already used by the Association of Chief Police Officers, and is:

**'Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been**

**intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality.'**

This definition is wider than the previous Home Office definition and incorporates violence between family members over 18, as well as between adults who are, or were, intimate partners.

John went on to explain that the Home Office, in partnership with the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit, has been working on developing a National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan for 2005/06.

This Plan focuses attention on five identified outcomes which the Government is committed to:

- Reduce the prevalence of domestic violence, particularly in high incidence areas and/ or communities.
- Increase the rate of reported domestic violence.
- Increase the rate of domestic violence offences that are brought to justice
- Ensure victims of domestic violence are adequately protected and supported nationwide
- Reduce the number of domestic violence related homicides

The achievement of these outcomes is dependent on the delivery of seven key work objectives. Under each of these objectives are several work streams which will be performance managed and monitored regularly and progress reports provided for Ministers and other key stakeholders.

- Early identification
- Build capacity in the sector to provide effective advice and support to victims of DV
- Increase the use of existing and new powers by statutory services
- Increase the rate at which domestic violence is reported to police services
- Increase the rate at which domestic violence incidents result in sanction detections
- Increase the rate at which sanction detections are converted into offences brought to justice
- Develop the evidence base

John also stressed that cultural changes need to take place, including:

- Need to challenge the culture that colludes with Domestic violence
- Need to develop work with men
- Place more emphasis on managing perpetrators

Finally John described the development of specialist domestic violence courts. Following the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) study of five specialist court areas and a successful pilot project in Croydon and Cardiff, a programme of work has been developed between the Home Office, Department of Constitutional Affairs, CPS and regional Government Offices to develop 25 specialist courts by 2005/06.

Some of the key issues for specialist dv courts are:

- The role of advocates / Independent Domestic Violence Advisors
- Safety planning and resettlement
- Opportunity for wrap around services

In conclusion John highlighted the government's aims, to:

- Identify and harness good practice
- Roll out lessons learned in the Specialist court areas
- Continue to mainstream domestic violence across all sectors



*John Dunworth, Home Office*

## Promoting positive, safe fathering when working with abusive men

**Adrienne Burgess, Fathers Direct  
Peter Grant & Claire Thew,  
Safer Families Gateshead**

This forum explored the different theoretical, historical and cultural perspectives of the father work and domestic violence perpetrator sectors.

Jointly run by Adrienne Burgess, Peter Grant and Claire Thew, the forum included presentations looking at how these different perspectives influence models of work in each sector.



*Adrienne Burgess, Fathers Direct*

In order to give a flavour of the type of work that happens on a perpetrator programme in relation to fathering, Peter and Clare enacted a powerful demonstration role-play which is designed to help abusive fathers to gain empathy for the effects of domestic violence on their children.



*Peter Grant, Claire Thew and forum participants*

This was followed by a lively discussion involving the whole group. The main points discussed included:

- Fathers who pose serious risks for children need to be risk assessed before any work with them takes place, and such work should be monitored at an inter-agency level
- Fathers attending perpetrator programmes would benefit from more direct input on parenting skills as well as how to parent non-abusively

- Men on fathering programmes would benefit from more direct input on domestic abuse and how to parent non-abusively

Underlying the above concerns was a general agreement within the workshop that issues of masculinity and gender were significant to all such work with men.



*Peter Grant & Claire Thew*

Forum participants gave positive feedback—the various differences seemed to arise from the different starting points of fathering and domestic abuse workers and appeared to be of less significance than the common ground both approaches held.

Respect and Fathers Direct are committed to working together to bring the two sectors closer together and to developing positive working relationships at local and national level to address the issues related to fathers who are domestic violence perpetrators.



*Group participants*

For more information on Fathers Direct see their website [www.fathersdirect.com](http://www.fathersdirect.com)

*Forum notes compiled by Paul Wolf-Light*

## Working with male perpetrators from BME communities

**Dr Edward Gondolf, MAATI**  
**Mohamed Abdalla Ballela, Al-Aman, DVIP**

Men's violence and abuse against their partners and children is hugely influenced by the messages they receive from their culture and community about what is and isn't acceptable. Effective interventions need to be culturally appropriate and meaningful.

However, in most areas of the UK the needs of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) perpetrators are not being considered, let alone met.

This forum focused on some innovative work that is being undertaken with BME perpetrators—an under-resourced and sometimes controversial area of work.



*Mohamed Abdalla Ballela*

Mohamed gave an outline of the work of Al-Aman, a project run by the Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP) with Arabic-speaking communities in West London. He gave a clear message that programmes run for BME communities are essential to the goals of domestic violence prevention and are long overdue. Al-Aman provides support for Arabic-speaking women experiencing domestic violence as well as working with perpetrators. A key element of Al-Aman's work is outreach with local communities.

There has been hardly any academic research in the perpetrator sector into the specific needs of BME perpetrators. Ed Gondolf gave an overview of his recent research with African-American perpetrators to test the effectiveness of culturally-focused perpetrator programmes against conventional cognitive-behavioural programmes.

There was no apparent benefit—either in terms of completion rates or re-assault reports—for

those attending all-African-American groups with conventional counselling or culturally-focused counselling.



*Dr Edward Gondolf*

However, African-American perpetrators with a greater sense of racial identity are, more likely to prefer racially-matched counsellors. It is not merely "race" that needs to be identified, but also the cultural attitudes that accompany one's racial and ethnic background.

One of the conclusions is that the effectiveness of culturally-focused counselling needs to be further tested in other settings and contexts. In the current study, the culturally-focused counselling was an appendage to an existing agency closely linked to the criminal justice system. Culturally-focused counselling may prove to be more effective within community-based organisations more closely tied to local services and supports.

The forum included a lively discussion which unpicked and analysed some of the more negative myths surrounding the issues and realities of working with(in) BME communities.

It is important to remember that while the purpose, goals, outcomes and measures of success with all work with perpetrators remains identical, there are added difficulties for men from BME communities coming forward for help.

Respect is keen to support the development of culturally appropriate interventions with perpetrators and to encourage effective cross-cultural working in all its member projects. This will be enshrined in the accreditation systems that we develop over the next few years.

For info about Al-Aman contact [mohamed@dvip.org](mailto:mohamed@dvip.org). To download a copy of the final report of Dr Gondolf's research go to: <http://www.iup.edu/maati/publications>.

*Forum notes compiled by Amanda Copstick*

## Specialist risk assessment for the Family Courts

**Kate Iwi & Dr Chris Newman,  
Safe Contact Project, DVIP  
and Calvin Bell, Ahimsa (Safer  
Families)**

Child contact is high on the government agenda at the moment with the Children (Contact) and Adoption Bill considering how the family courts should change to improve contact arrangements. The forum considered the model of specialist risk assessment in private and public law cases developed by Ahimsa and DVIP which places child safety at the centre of the process.

After a brief introduction about the circumstances in which a specialist risk assessment might be asked for in private and public law cases, Kate and Chris persuasively role played two scenes of domestic abuse related to children and then violence on contact .



*Kate Iwi & Chris Newman in role play*

Participants then asked questions of the male abuser and had a brief exploration of the thinking behind each question.



*Group participants*



*Calvin Bell takes questions from the group*

Calvin presented the risk assessment process discussing static and dynamic risk factors, preceded by a warning that assessing risk is “at best, a good guess”.

Participants in small groups looked at particular cases from their own experience and identified ‘risk’ and ‘vulnerability’ factors which were then fed back and further explored in a plenary session.

The workshop finished with Kate looking at the impact of domestic abuse on children, particularly looking at brain and cognitive development, attachment styles and social learning.



*Kate Iwi & Chris Newman*

*Forum notes compiled by Dave Potts*

## Keeping women and children safe when working with perpetrators

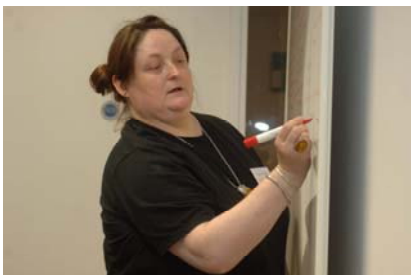
**Louise Johnson, Scottish Women's Aid,  
Alison Buchanan, Women's Aid (England),  
and Jo Todd, Respect**

Perpetrator work has always been controversial, not least because it could raise the risk to women by offering them hope that their abusive partner can change, when not all do. To offset these risks this workshop looked at the role and importance of a specialist associated women's service.



*Small discussion groups*

This workshop was run jointly by Respect, Scottish Women's Aid and Women's Aid (England). It began in smaller discussion groups focussing on the woman's experience when her partner, ex-partner or new partner attends a perpetrator programme. How might she think and feel? What would her process and needs be? A wide range of possible and often contradictory thoughts and feelings were identified by the groups. Through discussing different case scenarios the group explored the importance of working with the woman ex/partner and giving clear messages about the programme and also the safety implications of sharing information. The complexities of working with both the abused and the abuser became apparent through discussion.



*Louise Johnson, Scottish Women's Aid*

With more insight into the women's experience

the workshop went on to consider issues of risk and safety.



*Jo Todd, Respect*

Jo led a presentation looking at ways that perpetrator programmes can raise risk, for example by encouraging women to put their trust in professionals to protect them and their children, so that they no longer rely on their own judgement or recognise the limitations of professional input.

Jo then went on to highlight factors that could increase safety, an obvious example being changing the perpetrators behaviour.

She stressed the fundamental principle that perpetrator programmes should *never* be run in isolation but should always be run alongside comprehensive pro-active support services for partners and ex-partners. The aims of these support services were then identified with increasing the safety of women and children at the forefront. Issues around confidentiality/information sharing were highlighted with complete confidentiality in relation to the man being paramount. It was also important to recognise that in some cases sharing information may increase safety, in other cases sharing information may increase risk.



*Alison Buchanan, Women's Aid (England)*

With this sensitive and delicate balance in mind the workshop finished back in smaller discussion groups, reflecting on a number of scenarios and how, as professionals, we might engage with these different situations with safety at the forefront of our consideration.

The group saw how easily risk can be increased if the safety of women and children is not prioritised at all times and confidentiality issues given a central role. The workshop proved to be interesting, thought provoking, and more than a little daunting to participants when faced with the complexity of issues involved.

*Forum notes compiled by Marian Swinfen.*

## **Criminal Justice System (CJS) perpetrator programmes— different approaches from Scotland and England & Wales**

**Monica Wilson, Change,  
Paul Wynn, Respect Executive Committee  
member & Probation Officer**

This forum gave participants information about the different ways that perpetrator programmes are being developed within the CJS in England & Wales and Scotland.

Paul Wynn described how the Probation Service has developed two programmes—the Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP) and the Community Domestic Violence Programme (CDVP). These programmes have been accredited by the Criminal Justice Accreditation Panel (CJAP) and are now in the process of being rolled out across England and Wales.



*Paul Wynn, Probation Officer*

Monica Wilson gave a presentation describing the process currently underway in Scotland, where a consortium of perpetrator programmes and associated women's services are developing a domestic abuse intervention system which is being prepared for the Scottish Community Justice Accreditation Panel.



*Monica Wilson, Change*

A key component of the Scottish model is its collaborative multi-agency approach and shared perspective between voluntary and statutory sector partners.

The system of intervention will include a minimum of two years' intervention work with men, including:

- Preparation and motivation sessions
- Six months duration group-work
- Individual programme work
- Post programme work
- A service to women partners, ex-partners and children
- Interagency protocols to maximise safety

Draft manuals were submitted to the panel in February 2005 and feedback and guidance from panel has been encouraging.



*Group participants*

This forum included lively discussion regarding the programmes themselves and the systems around them which attempt to manage risk and the women's safety work.

Respect's members' newsletter will report any new developments.

## Frontline interventions with perpetrators

**Rory Macrae, Working with Men**  
**Ippo Panteloudakis, The Respect Phonenumber**

Frontline workers across all agencies come into contact with domestic violence perpetrators all the time, yet few have received any training or guidance in how to deal with them. This forum presented an opportunity to explore best practice issues for frontline intervention.

Rory Macrae outlined the work of Working with Men and presented a case study of his work, inviting the audience to participate in a question and answer session.



*Rory Macrae, Working With Men*

Much of the group discussion revolved round the twin issues of how to encourage men to enrol onto voluntary perpetrator programmes focusing on motivational interviews, “the stick “ approach and child protection issues.

The evolving discussion considered the need for a multi-pronged approach to perpetrator interventions, which both funds community based perpetrator projects like Working With Men and also ensures better training to enable frontline staff to intervene with perpetrators at an early stage.



*Ippo Panteloudakis, Respect*

Ippo Panteloudakis, Phonenumber Coordinator at Respect, then gave a presentation on the Respect Phonenumber.

This is a new project which became operational in September 2004.

The Respect Phonenumber—0845 122 8609—offers information and advice to those who are

violent and abusive to their partners. The Respect phonenumber also welcomes calls from (ex)partners, friends and relatives who are concerned about a perpetrator and frontline workers who come into contact with perpetrators in their work.

Ippo explored some of the advantages and disadvantages of working with men on the phone. Advantages included that the Phonenumber gives men the chance of anonymity, where they can speak freely and feel in control of the conversation—they can terminate it anytime and therefore don't tend to feel 'cornered'. You are likely to get a fuller disclosure of violence as there are no consequences. They think they are calling a helpline/support service and that makes it easier for us to send some very clear messages. Also the Phonenumber can motivate and prepare them to attend a perpetrator programme.

However there are some disadvantages. It can be hard to focus on abusive behaviours as some men try to talk about their relationship. It is difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of our intervention with perpetrators so there is potential for putting the woman at risk. Despite a very clear model of work which focuses on women and children's safety there is always a risk that a caller could use a call to further abuse his partner. Occasionally, there are distractions that make a meaningful, in depth conversation not possible. All the Respect Phonenumber literature makes it very clear that we do not expect one call to effect long term change, but it is still possible that callers, their partners and even professionals might hold out this hope.



*Group participants*

Ippo led the group through discussions of three phonenumber scenarios, exploring the types of issues that typical callers bring up, including the difference between anger management courses and perpetrator programmes and the different characteristics of male and female perpetrator callers.

*Forum notes compiled by Sue Dominey*

## Geese Theatre Company “Connected”

Geese Theatre Company is a team of actors and group workers who present interactive theatre performances and conduct workshops, staff training and consultation for the National Probation Service, prisons, young offender institutions, youth offending teams and related agencies throughout the UK and abroad.



*The Geese Team*

Geese has a long history of working in the Domestic Violence field and has partnership contracts with several Probation counties to provide inputs on Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programmes. The company also creates one-off interactive performances to highlight different aspects of domestic violence for conferences and training events.



*The 'Fool'*

The interactive theatre piece, “Connected,” was specially devised by Geese for Respect’s first conference.

“Connected” followed the history of Paul, a man who is domestically violent, his partner, Claire and their daughter, Lisa.

The story is presented by a Master of Ceremonies (or Fool) who interacts with the audience as well as with characters on stage.



*Audience participation (whether you like it or not!)*

The story is told through a series of scenes, which showed the escalation of Paul’s abuse, the effect of this on Claire and Lisa and the dilemmas faced by a number of professionals working with Paul and Claire.



*'Paul'*

The performers used half masks, which allowed for an exploration of mask as a metaphor for the ‘front’ we show to the outside world.



*Paul's GP*

At points, characters lifted their masks to reveal thoughts and feelings, which they might not usually share.



*'Claire'*



*The Fool questions Paul and his GP*

The performance was interactive and at various points the audience were asked to consider questions related to the performance and discuss them in small groups. The essence of these discussions was then fed back to the whole audience by the performers.



*Audience discussions*

The performance highlighted the overarching themes of the conference—changing behaviour and managing risk—and explored four sub-themes:

- the role of front line workers, like health professionals, in early interventions with domestic violence perpetrators,
- the realities of a holistic, systemic approach to domestic violence cases,
- appropriate and ethical protocols for perpetrator programmes and associated women's services to manage perpetrators' risk and prioritise women's safety.
- effective and ethical content of perpetrator programmes.



'Claire' and daughter 'Lisa'

The performance gave audience members the opportunity to relate theoretical material on working with perpetrators and their partners to 'real' people, situations and dilemmas and to share their knowledge, opinions and concerns.

There were also some cheeky jokes about Gondolf, rings and his three volumes.



