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**HALT: Homicide Abuse Learning Together (ES/S005471/2)**

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## **Gender-based Violence Seminar Series: Focus on Domestic Homicide**

## **Tuesday 22nd November 4-5 p.m. Minoritisation in Domestic Homicide Reviews: Prof. Khatidja Chantler and Dr Vicky Baker, Manchester Metropolitan University.**

In this presentation we consider how Minoritisation features in Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) in England and Wales and identify critical learning in relation to addressing Minoritisation. Five themes were identified: i) the invisibility of race, culture and ethnicity; ii) perceptions and experiences of services; iii) use of stereotypes and the culturalisation of domestic violence and abuse (DVA); iv) lack of interpreters; and v) DHR recommendations. Our analysis illustrates that statutory sector services should strengthen their responses to Black and Minoritised victims by ensuring proper recording of cultural background is used to inform practice; engage professionally trained interpreters with an awareness of DVA; resist framing DVA as endemic to Minoritised cultures; and enhance trust and confidence in public services within Minoritised communities. The best examples of DHRs challenged service narratives and usually sought expertise from a specialist Black/Minoritised DVA service or community organisation (frequently Minoritised women’s rights organisations).

## **Tuesday 29th November 4-5p.m. Professional and Family Experiences of Domestic Homicide Reviews (Dr Alina Haines and Elaine Craig)**

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) have been a statutory requirement in the UK since April 2011. A DHR is a multi-agency review of the circumstances of the death of a person aged 16 plus that looks to have resulted from violence, abuse, or neglect by either a relative, a current or previous intimate relationship, or member of the same household. During the HALT project, ‘Learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews Using EBCD,’ we interviewed 19 professionals who had been involved in DHRs. These included, senior managers within statutory, third sector/independent organisations who had a key role in safeguarding boards/community safety partnerships and with experience of involvement in the DHR process. In addition to this, we also interviewed seven family members bereaved by domestic homicide and co-created a ‘trigger film’ with the family members reflecting back on the key moments from their DHR experience. This will be screened as part of the seminar. Key findings from professionals many of which were reflected in family interviews included: (1) upskilling and democratising the review process, (2) involving families including children and significant others, (3) actioning and auditing DHR recommendations, and (4) negotiating organisational blame to foster learning. To maximise learning from DHRs, participants called for a greater role for national bodies to monitor whether recommendations are being implemented and what the barriers are to implementation.

## **Tuesday 6th December 4-5 p.m.: Utilising Domestic Homicide Reviews to prevent Adult Family Domestic Homicide (Dr Kelly Bracewell, University of Central Lancashire)**

This presentation reports on a thematic document analysis of Adult Family Homicide (AFH) Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) in England and Wales published between 2012 and 2018. Intimate partner homicides are excluded.

Our analysis identified five key intersecting issues: mental health and substance/alcohol misuse, a history of criminal behaviour, childhood trauma, financial issues and the dynamics of care. DHR recommendations for agencies and local authorities surrounded improved training, professional curiosity, multi-agency working, risk assessment and information sharing. DHRs reinforced the need for a greater co-ordination between those supporting the perpetrator and those responsible for assessing support for the victim.

This presentation highlights that risk and dynamics relating to AFH are complex and must consider social-structural as well as relational-contextual factors influencing violence.

## **Tuesday 13th December 4-5 p.m.: Intimate partner homicide-suicide: an exploration of characteristics and contexts using domestic homicide reviews (England and Wales). (Dr Vicky Baker, Manchester Metropolitan University)**

Intimate partner homicide-suicide (IPHS) is a form of domestic homicide most commonly involving men killing their female ex/partners before then killing themselves. Although the gendered nature of IPHS has long been reported in the literature, this seminar elucidates a more nuanced analysis of IPHS and their (potentially diverse) contexts, presentations and victim/perpetrator characteristics. The seminar draws on 37 domestic homicide reviews (DHRs) relating to intimate partner homicide-suicides that took place between 2011 and 2017. Our mixed methods document analysis identified two distinct IPHS presentations, shaped mostly by the age of those involved.

Cases involving adults over 65 typically related to deteriorating mental and physical health, the loss of independence, and despair at the future. These DHRs found little to no evidence of prior domestic abuse in the victim-perpetrator relationship, but instead, long-term relationships characterised by a caring/cared for context. Contrastingly, cases involving adults under 65 were characterised by loss or threat of loss of the victim-perpetrator relationship, jealousy and prior domestic abuse towards the victim. Our findings have important implications for policy and practice, particularly with regards to the need for improved carer assessments, collaborative practice between adult social care and health, and older age as a time of unique risks and vulnerabilities with regards to domestic abuse.