

Sexual rights and Intellectual Disability

Exploring policy, attitudes and support initiatives

Date: Tuesday 8 September 2009

Venue: Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9, Ireland



Endorsed by ISEN



IRISH SEX
EDUCATION
NETWORK

Sexual rights and Intellectual Disability

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About the conference

With Ireland's signing of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the rights of people with intellectual disabilities, including their right to respect for relationships and sexuality, have come increasingly to the fore. However, translating acknowledgement of rights into proactive support remains a key challenge, and people with intellectual disabilities have highlighted that they face many barriers in this area of their lives. For families and disability services, a crucial issue is how to empower people with intellectual disabilities with regard to relationships and sexuality, and yet at the same time, ensure that they are safe. Many have cited difficulties with Irish legislation in this area.

This inclusive conference brings together a number of Irish and international experts who will explore sexuality as a rights issue and look at support needs of people with intellectual disabilities, family members and staff. Presentations will also highlight a number of new and interesting support initiatives that aim to address needs in this area. This will be a practical, empowering day, encouraging debate and offering advice on how to tackle this sensitive, but important issue.

Key themes

- Consent and legislation
- Policy development within disability services
- Self advocates' views
- Family perspectives and support needs
- Staff perspectives and support needs
- Sexual health strategies
- Supporting people with intellectual disabilities with regard to sexual orientation
- Supporting people with intellectual disabilities as parents

Aims of the conference

- To provide an update on the Irish policy and legislative framework concerning sexuality and intellectual disability, and to explore policy development in this area.
- To disseminate new research and explore support initiatives in this field.
- To provide a forum for debate and to enable participants to network with others who have similar concerns and to share examples of good practice.
- To empower people with intellectual disabilities to have their voices heard with regard to relationships and sexuality.

Who should attend?

It is hoped that this conference will attract a wide range of attendees, from people with intellectual disabilities and their family members, to those working to support people with intellectual disabilities in this area of their lives.

- People with intellectual disabilities
- Family members
- Policy makers
- Managers
- Frontline staff
- Sexual health service providers
- Researchers

About Irish Sex Education Network



The Irish Sex Education Network (ISEN) was founded in September 2002 and is an independent, non denominational, nation wide, multidisciplinary group. Currently our members come from voluntary and statutory disability services, persons with disabilities and their families. The Irish Sex Education Network aims to promote high professional standards and best practice in the area of sex education for people with disabilities with a special emphasis on people with intellectual disabilities. <http://www.isenonline.com/>.

Programme

- 9.00am Registration
- 9.30am **Welcome and introduction**
Chair: **Grace Kelly** PhD student, Dept of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork
- 9.40am **Promoting safer sexual lives**
Professor Kelley Johnson Director, Norah Fry Research Centre, Bristol
- 10.10am **Capacity and sexuality: The Irish policy and legislative framework**
Speaker TBC National Disability Authority
- 10.35am **Sexuality and intellectual disability: Staff views and support needs**
Sharon Foley Independent Research Consultant, one2one Solutions

11.00am Refreshments

- 11.15am **Supporting sexuality: Balancing stakeholder views in a disability service**
Grace Kelly PhD student, Dept of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork
- 11.40am **Sexual health and intellectual disability**
Roisín Dermody PhD student, Equality Studies Centre, University College Dublin
- 12.05pm **“Secret loves, hidden lives?” Exploring issues for people with intellectual disabilities who are gay, lesbian or bisexual**
David Abbott Senior Research Fellow, Norah Fry Research Centre, Bristol

12.30pm Lunch

- 1.30pm **Parenting with intellectual disability: Advocacy and support**
Beth Tarleton Research Fellow, Norah Fry Research Centre, Bristol
- 1.55pm **“Leaving Home” A Forum theatre interactive drama presentation about relationships for people with intellectual disabilities**
Clare Inclusive Research Group Brothers of Charity Clare
- 2.20pm **Parallel workshop sessions**
- A Developing relationship & sexuality policy**
Helen Crowley Co-ordinator, RUA, The Callan Institute, St John of God Hospitaller Services
- B “Who says we can, who says we can’t?” A relationships discussion group**
Irish Sex Education Peer Support Group Irish Sex Education Network
- C Supporting our sons’ and daughters’ relationship and sexuality needs: A parent’s perspective**
Dr Chrissie Rogers Parent & Lecturer, Brunel University

3.30pm Refreshments

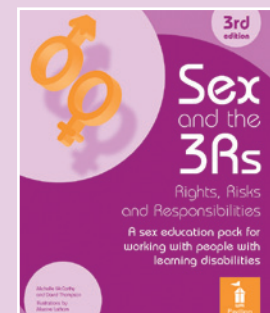
- 3.45pm **Feedback from the parallel sessions & Discussion**

4.30pm Close

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OLM-Pavilion is the leading publisher and event organiser for those working in social and healthcare fields, whether they work in the statutory, private or voluntary sectors. We publish over 200 training packs, *Mental Health Today* and *Learning Disability Today* magazines.

Promotional opportunities

For more information about promotional opportunities at this conference, such as exhibiting and including your promotional materials in the conference delegate packs, please contact: Graham Hoare Customer Relationships Manager, OLM-Pavilion:
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We cannot accept provisional bookings

C-517-07-09

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2.20pm (A-C)

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Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9, Ireland
(a map of the venue will be sent with confirmation of your booking)

Date

Tuesday 8 September 2009

Conference fees

The fee includes lunch, refreshments and conference materials. Please note accommodation is not included.

Conference papers

Conference papers will be sent out a week after the conference, please fill in the 'Your details' section.

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