

IASP - Taskforce on Postvention and Suicide Bereavement

Open Meeting held at the XXVth World Congress
of the International Association for Suicide Prevention
27-31 October 2009
Montevideo, Uruguay

Minutes of the meeting – 29 October 2009 – 19.15h-20.15h

Attendees (in alphabetical order)

Name	E-mail	Country
1. Karl Andriessen (Co-Chair TFP)	iasp-tf-postvention@pandora.be	Belgium
2. Kari Dyregrov	kari@krisepsyk.no	Norway
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5. Danuta Gailiene	danugail@takas.lt	Lithuania
6. Christine Genest	Christine.genest@umontreal.ca	Canada
7. Onja Grad	onja.grad@psih-klinika.si	Slovenia
8. Javier Jimenez	elcorreodejimenez@gmail.com	Spain
9. Amande Kliemann	amande.kliemann@yahoo.com.br	Brazil
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11. Maude Léonard	leonard.maude@courrier.uqam.ca	Canada
12. Cristina Mogollon	cristinamogollon@hotmail.com	Ecuador
13. Rossana Pettersén	rossana.pettersen@ki.se	Sweden
14. Daniela Reis E Silva	drsilva@terra.com.br	Brazil
15. Margarita Rendon	grendon@1999.gov.ec	Ecuador
16. Outi Ruishalme	outi.ruishalme@mielenterveysseura.fi	Finland
17. Jean-Pierre Soubrier	ps.jp.soubrier@gmail.com	France
18. Sally Spencer-Thomas	sally@carsonjspencer.org	USA
19. Alan Staines	alanstaines@optusnet.com.au	Australia

Apologies

1. Frank Campell	frankcampell@brcic.org	USA
2. Dolores-Angela Castelli-Dransart	Angela.Castelli@hef-ts.ch	Switzerland
3. Jill Fisher	jfisher@unitedsynergies.com.au	Australia
4. Karolina Krysinska	kkrysinska@hotmail.com	Belgium
5. Seán McCarthy (Co-Chair TFP)	sean.mccarthy@console.ie	Ireland
6. John Peters	john@johnpeters.freeserve.co.uk	UK
7. Anka Zavasnik	anka.zavasnik@psih-klinika.si	Slovenia

Agenda:

1. Attendees and apologies
2. Report of activities
 - Update WHO-IASP guidelines: "Preventing Suicide: How to Start a Survivors' Group"
 - Update of resources in the postvention page of IASP Website
 - Survivor presentations during congresses

- Postvention Newsletter
- 3. Future activities
 - Worldwide study of survivor services
 - Plans for presentations, symposia
 - Other collaborative projects?
- 4. Any other business

1. **Attendees and apologies:** See above.

2. **Report of activities**

2.1. Update WHO-IASP guidelines: “Preventing Suicide: How to Start a Survivors’ Group”

In 2008, the revised and updated version of the WHO booklet “*Preventing suicide: How to start a survivors’ group*” was published as a joint WHO-IASP publication. At the time of publication it was said that WHO would be able to print and disseminate a large number of copies. However, the booklet was printed in a limited quantity only, leaving several requests from IASP members to receive copies unanswered. The PDF version of the booklet is available on the WHO website: www.who.int/mental_health/prevention/suicide/resource_survivors.pdf. IASP members who want to translate the booklet for local use are invited to contact the Taskforce’s Co-Chairs.

2.2. Update of resources in the postvention page of IASP Website

The postvention page in IASP website was updated: www.iasp.info/postvention.php. In line with the suggestion that was made during the previous Taskforce meeting, the words ‘suicide bereavement’ were added to ‘postvention’ in order to specify the content.

The website now includes:

- all issues of the Postvention Newsletter
- minutes of the Taskforce meetings
- resources for survivors: links to brochures, survivor guides, websites
- suicide survivor bereavement services
- national suicide survivor organizations

Taskforce members and contacts are invited to forward any suitable materials/links to the Co-Chairs of the Taskforce who will take the editorial decision regarding the inclusion of a specific item in the website.

2.3. Survivor presentations during congresses

The Taskforce is grateful that this IASP Congress included a plenary postvention presentation by Kari Dyregrov (Norway). In addition there were two parallel sessions on postvention, and a few scattered postvention presentations. The meeting members decided that we should continue to ask congress organizers to include at least one plenary postvention presentation and to group postvention presentations together in parallel sessions in a postvention stream thus improving the visibility of postvention and suicide bereavement.

2.4. Postvention Newsletter

The IASP Postvention Newsletter is published four times per year, and is disseminated to the whole IASP membership. Jill Fisher (Australia) is the new Chief Editor.

Each issue includes a variety of topics such as a survivor story, a report from an organization, a summary of a study, and announcements.

The members and contacts of the Taskforce are encouraged to submit articles on suicide bereavement, postvention services, survivor stories, etc. In addition, the Editor can invite individual persons to write on a specific topic.

The meeting members suggest that the Newsletter would include a list of upcoming events and new relevant publications.

3. Future activities

3.1. Worldwide study of survivor services

A few years ago IASP has published the European Directory of Suicide Survivor Services. Recently Julie Cerel and colleagues published their findings from a survey regarding USA suicide survivor support groups. Karl contacted Julie and she is interested to participate in a worldwide survey of survivor services (an old idea in this Taskforce). In addition, a few other members/contacts are interested to join in this project. The start is scheduled in March 2010 with the aim to present the results during the XXVI IASP Congress in 2012.

3.2. Plans for presentations, symposia

Suggestions from the meeting members:

- Could there be a table at the conferences with leaflets, materials for survivors on display or to give away?
- Organize a workshop with representatives from different continents to exchange experiences between organizations/countries. In the past this has been organized successfully a few times. Onja will inquire from the organizers in Rome if it would be possible to hold such a workshop.
- Should we organize a 'healing conference'? This is not obvious since the IASP congresses are scientific meetings.
- Role of faith communities in bereavement support (Sally Spencer-Thomas).
- A meeting for survivors and professionals together? This was tried in Canada but it turned out to be a difficult exercise. Survivors and researchers speak different languages. It's important to respect each group.
- Pre-congress workshops? This was done twice in the recent past, with success. However it demands an additional fee from the participants.
- Working with suicide bereaved children. What research needs to be done? (Workshop idea from Kari and Alte Dyregrov). Including perspectives of clinicians, researchers and survivors.

3.3. Other collaborative projects?

Karl Andriessen and Karolina Krysinska start a study on online resources for people bereaved through suicide.

4. Any other business

- To update and to circulate the e-mail list.
- Contact with each other is also possible via bereavedbysuicide.org
- The next Taskforce Postvention meeting will be held at the 13th ESSSB Congress in Rome, 1-4 September 2010.

Minutes,
Karl Andriessen