



# SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS 2024 REPORT

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# Introduction

IASP Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are member-led collaborative communities that focus on specific aspects of suicide prevention to advance evidence-based understanding, practice, and policy worldwide. They create space for researchers, professionals, people with lived experience, and volunteers to contribute targeted expertise and shared learning across regions and contexts.





## Highlights of 2024 SIG Work

In 2024 the IASP SIGs were involved in numerous impactful activities, below are some of the key highlights:

### Involvement in International Conferences

- Organised symposiums, plenaries, business meetings, and workshops at the IASP and associated events, e.g., ESSSB in Rome, IASP Regional Conferences in Thailand and Minneapolis, Workshops in Auckland and Toronto.
- Engaged in various online and in-person, IASP and external, workshops, webinars, meetings, seminars, conference events, across all global regions.
- SIG specific Suicide Prevention in LGBTQIA+ communities [webinar](#).

### Policy and Guidance Development Examples

- Bereavement and postvention: Updated WHO/IASP guidance on establishing suicide bereavement support groups; submitted to WHO.
- Suicide and the media: Developed “[Best Practices for Medico-Legal Professionals Who Work with the Media](#).”
- Helplines best practices: Conducted a SIG survey of priorities and commenced a review to consider updating WHO helpline guidance.
- Lived experience: Worked with IASP leadership to integrate lived experience into IASP governance and event design.

### Academic Publications and Collaborative Research

- Bereavement and postvention: Meta-review published open access in CRISIS on [perceived effectiveness of components of interventions supporting people bereaved by suicide](#) (Hofmann & Andriessen, 2024).
- Education and training: Ongoing multi-country research study exploring the needs and preferences of the students based on the Multi-Country Survey on Higher Education Multidisciplinary Suicide Prevention Curriculum and Capacity Building (HESP-CCB).

### Outreach and Engagement

- Engaged in WSPD activities, including producing the [Outreach Briefs](#) resources
- [Reach In, Reach out Podcast episodes](#) from the SIGs: Suicide and the Workplace, Suicide and the Media, Education and Training in Suicide Prevention, and Prevention of Intentional Pesticide Poisoning
- Suicide in the Workplace: Launched the [open letter on work-related suicide](#).
- Helplines best practices: Built shared priorities through open access working meetings.

# Overview of the Special Interest Groups

## Clusters and Contagion in Suicidal Behaviour

brings together interested people in research, prevention and policy, who can share information and expertise in clusters and contagion effects in suicidal behaviour worldwide.



## Culture and Suicidal Behaviour

establishes a network of interested people, we hope in time to be able to develop projects on specific sub-themes (e.g. suicide prevention strategies in different cultural settings; spirituality/religion; human/women rights; gender issues including gender-based violence and domestic/family violence; suicidal behaviour in low income countries; arts and culture; culturally sensitive/appropriate research methods) based on the interest of members.



## Suicide Prevention for Boys and Men

brings together researchers, practitioners and people with lived experience who have a common interest and expertise in suicide prevention for boys and men with the goal of expanding the evidence base and informing future suicide prevention efforts.



## Education and Training in Suicide Prevention

supports the development of high-quality education and training in suicide prevention around the world.



## Genetics and Neurobiology of Suicide

brings together suicidologists with a clear interest in neurobiological aspects of suicidal behaviour and to stimulate research in this domain.



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## Helplines Best Practices

encourages sharing of experience amongst helpline practitioners and utilisation of research/evaluation findings towards improved satisfaction and outcomes for callers.



## LGBTQIA+ Suicide Prevention

pursues a collective and shared interest in suicide prevention for LGBTQIA+ people by promoting and advocating for existing and emerging research.



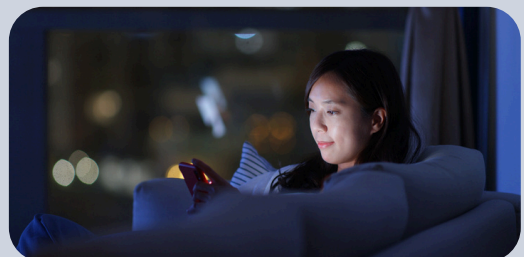
## Suicide and Self-Harm in Middle-Aged Adults

enhances understandings of suicide and self-harm in middle adulthood as important health and social problems, and to support research and network between researchers dedicated to the study and prevention of suicide and self-harm in this group population.



## Suicide and the Media

establishes guidelines that promote the accurate, responsible and ethical reporting of suicide in the media.



## Lived Experience

integrates lived experience throughout IASP activities, share information and good practice relating to lived experience with national and international suicide prevention organisations, and promote and support the establishment of lived experience networks/communities globally. We look forward to working collaboratively with other IASP SIGs.

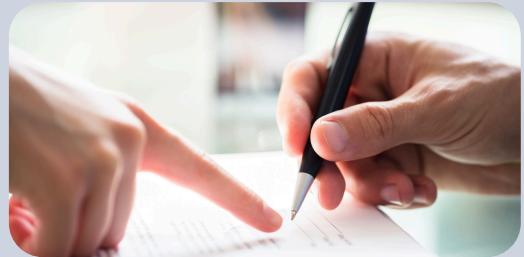




# Overview of the Special Interest Groups

## **Nomenclature**

aspires to generate an international standardized nomenclature on all terms within the area of suicidology, inclusive of death wishes, assisted suicide and bereavement, which may render research more comparable across the globe.



## **Prevention of Intention Pesticide Poisoning**

works to prevent pesticide poisoning and to promote the development and use of evidence on restricting access to means, regulation, training, and improved medical management.



## **Risk and Resilience**

brings together an international group of researchers who will adapt suicide risk assessment measures to different cultural communities while collaboratively sharing information with one another.



## **Suicide Among Older Adults**

supports research and network between researchers dedicated to the study and prevention of suicide in older adults.



## **Suicide Prevention in Primary Care**

brings together a cross-disciplinary group of researchers, clinicians, people with lived experience, commissioners and policy-makers to identify opportunities for optimising the role of primary care and community-based services in suicide prevention.



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## Suicide and the Workplace

develops policy, protocols, and programs to address suicide in the workplace.



## Suicide Bereavement and Postvention

promotes collaboration and evidence in research and practice in the fields of suicide exposure and bereavement and postvention services.



The work of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) remains vital to advancing the field of suicide prevention, fostering global collaboration and the sharing of expertise across diverse regions and contexts. We extend our sincere thanks to the SIG chairs for their leadership and to each member who actively contributes to these groups, driving meaningful progress and innovation. For those interested in joining an existing SIG or exploring the opportunity to establish a new group, please reach out to us at [membershipandevents@iasp.info](mailto:membershipandevents@iasp.info) – Together, we continue to make impactful contributions to suicide prevention efforts globally.

# CONTACT US



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