



# SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS 2025 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, practitioners, people with lived experience, and volunteers to contribute targeted expertise and shared learning across regions and contexts. IASP SIGs expanded activity in 2025, advancing practice guidance, convening global symposia and webinars, and launching new thematic collaborations. This year also saw the establishment of new SIGs, strengthening IASP's capacity to address emerging needs across settings and populations.





## New SIGs established in 2025

### Suicide Prevention in the Criminal Justice Sector

The Suicide Prevention in the Criminal Justice Sector Special Interest Group aims to enhance suicide prevention and postvention approaches for people in contact with the criminal justice sector by supporting research, connecting academics, practitioners, and those with lived experience, and advocating for evidence-based practice.



### Youth Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention

Discover this special interest group focusing on accelerating and strengthening the evidence base for suicide and self-harm prevention in children, adolescents and young adults.



### Social Determinants of Suicide

This Special Interest Group aims to bring together people who are interested and/or have expertise in social determinants of suicide to work together to address these determinants to prevent suicide.



### Climate Change and Suicidality

The Climate Change and Suicidality Special Interest Group was created to tackle the increasingly urgent threat of climate change and its potential influence on suicidal thoughts and behaviours.



### Intellectual Disability, Autism, and Neurodiversity

The Intellectual Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity Special Interest Group was proposed to address the urgent need to reduce shockingly high suicide rates among people with intellectual disability and autistic people.



## Highlights of 2025 SIG work

In 2025 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, including the [IASP World Congress in Vienna](#).
- Engaged in various online and in-person, IASP and external, workshops, webinars, meetings, seminars, conference events, across all global regions.

### Policy and Guidance Development Examples

- Helplines best practices: Defined 2025 priorities (frequent caller management, AI guidance, helplines statement); started drafting IASP helplines statement; cross-SIG collaboration with Lived experience.
- Suicide and the media: Drafted trigger warning guidance and an AI/chatbot statement.
- Bereavement and postvention: [Preventing suicide: how to start a suicide bereavement support group](#), a WHO resource on setting up a bereavement support group was published.
- Workplace: Reworked the open letter on work-related suicide; seeking broader outreach and signatures. [Open-letter-on-workplace-suicides.pdf](#)
- Older adults: Contributed to the IASP Position Statement on Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia. [IASP Position Statement on Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia - IASP](#)

### Academic Publications and Collaborative Research

- Bereavement and Postvention: Started working on a bibliometric study on research trends in suicide bereavement and postvention (Andriessen & Hofmann). Published a metareview on the perceived effectiveness of components of interventions to support people bereaved by suicide. Hofmann, L., Putri, A. K., Pitman, A., Bantjes, J., Castelli Dransart, D. A., Causer, H., ... & Andriessen, K. (2025). [Perceived effectiveness of components of interventions to support people bereaved by suicide: A metareview of systematic reviews](#). *Crisis*, 46(2), 106–120.
- 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).
- [Climate Change and Suicidality: published letter in The Lancet Planetary Health](#) on suicidality in climate change and mental health research. Bayliss LT, Reifels L, Kölves K. Suicidality in climate change and mental health research. *The Lancet Planetary Health*. 2025.

## Highlights of 2025 Cont'd

### Webinars

- Helplines best practices: Two webinars on frequent callers
- The Social Determinants of Suicide: Launch of a New IASP Special Interest Group
- Suicide Prevention in LGBTQIA+ Communities: Queer Lives and the Politics of Categories
- Youth Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention: Youth Priorities in Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Research
- Bereavement and Postvention: Presented at the Partnerships for Life Series

Please see the following link for recordings of IASP hosted webinars: [Past Webinars – IASP](#)

### Outreach and Engagement

- Engaged in WSPD activities, including updating the [Outreach Briefs](#) & resources.
- [Reach In, Reach out Podcast episodes from the SIGs: Suicide and the Workplace, Suicide and the Media.](#)

# Overview of the Special Interest Groups

## Helplines Best Practices

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



## 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.



## 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.



## Suicide Among Older Adults

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



## Risk and Resilience & Reasons for Living

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.





## Overview of the Special Interest Groups

### Suicide and the Media

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



### Suicide Bereavement and Postvention

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



### 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 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.



### Suicide and the Workplace

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



# Overview of the Special Interest Groups

## 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.



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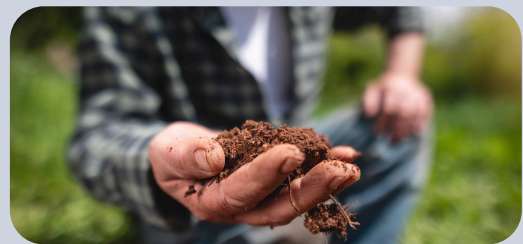
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The work of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) remains vital to advancing the field of suicide prevention, fostering global collaboration and the sharing of expertise across diverse regions and contexts. We extend our sincere thanks to the SIG chairs 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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