



## **Responding to Challenging Behaviour with Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) for Parents, Foster-Carers and Professionals :**

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Challenging behaviour emerges in different ways. One of the most under-recognised and mis-understood forms of challenging behaviour in foster care is child to parent violence/ abuse (CPVA). It involves teenage and younger girls and boys who use physical, psychological, emotional and financial violence and abuse over time to the extent that parents/carers live in fear of their child. The idea that parents and/or foster carers, who are responsible for children's welfare, can become victims of abuse/ violence from a child with whom they live is extremely challenging not only for the parent/ carer experiencing violence from their child but also for practitioners and wider society. The challenging behaviour involved in the dynamics of CPVA can be a key factor undermining family or placement stability. Non Violence Resistance (NVR) is an evidence-based approach to these problems in family relationships that responds to the needs of parents/ carers and practitioners in a wide range of settings for a non-blaming, structured and evidence-supported response to CPVA.

**Aims & objectives:** This seminar (2.00pm-5.00pm, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018 in Kilkenny) in NVR aims to raise awareness about the types of challenging behaviour that are involved in CPVA. This seminar also aims to introduce foster-carers and parents to some of the key ideas and strategies of NVR, as an evidence based, integrated systemic model for responding to CPVA. During the seminar, parents and foster-carers reflect on and practice some of the skills of the NVR model (further information about the model is available at [www.cpvireland.ie](http://www.cpvireland.ie)). There is an emphasis on collaborative and strengths-based responses and on influencing change in the parent or foster-carer/ child relationship. There is also a clear focus on increasing positive foster-carer/ parental presence in a child's life and on developing a support network as responses to challenging behaviour and CPVA.

Declan is a CORU registered social worker, who qualified in 1996 (MSW – Queens University Belfast), and began social work as a Child Protection and Welfare Social Worker in Ireland. In 2000, he joined the multi-disciplinary Mater Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) in Dublin. While part of the Mater CAMHS team, he was also seconded one day a week to the Northside Inter-Agency Project (NIAP), a multi-disciplinary team with the aims of preventing sexual abuse and working with young people who have sexually abused and their families. Since joining NUI Galway as a lecturer and researcher in social work in 2009, he continues to develop interests in integrating research, theory and practice in the areas of responding to violence and abuse in family and couple relationships. He has developed and continues to facilitate training and awareness raising programmes on NVR as a response to CPVA. Declan is also a Systemic / Family Therapist registered with the Family Therapy Association of Ireland (FTAI). He is a research fellow with the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre at NUI Galway. He was also the Ireland lead for the 5 nation EU funded Responding to Child to Parent Violence Project team to develop awareness about and to carry out action research on intervention programmes for child to parent violence throughout 2013-15 (see [www.rcpv.eu](http://www.rcpv.eu) and [www.cpvireland.ie](http://www.cpvireland.ie)). He was awarded a PhD through NUI Galway in 2016. His recently completed paperback book entitled *Child to Parent Violence and Abuse – Family Interventions with Non-Violent Resistance* (2018, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London) is now available from on-line sellers (such as [www.jkp.com](http://www.jkp.com)) and through bookshops (approx. £22 sterling). Further information about Declan is available at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/colleges-and-schools/arts-social-sciences-and-celtic-studies/staffprofiles/declanpcogan/>

