



PRESS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE ON 7 MAY 2025

National Prevention Organisation Haven Horizons calls for Urgent Funding for Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based violence.

Today, 7 May 2025, Haven Horizons calls for urgent funding for the prevention of domestic, sexual and gender-based abuse (DSGBV). At a cross-party presentation '*Prevention is Everyone's Business*' in the AV room in the Dail, Haven Horizons called on TDS, Senators and MEPS to advocate for and to fund radical prevention measures.

Speaking at the presentation, Madeline Mc Aleer, Training and Development Director of Haven Horizons, says: "*Prevention is everyone's business. If we don't prevent DSGBV, we permit it. A radical new approach to combating DSGBV is needed, comparable to how we tackled tobacco. DSGBV must be recognised as a public health emergency above party politics. We are calling on the Government for funding to continue our vital prevention work to fund prevention in the next budget and to move to a radical new DSGBV endgame strategy.*"

Haven Horizons, an organisation dedicated to DSGBV prevention, focuses on changing the attitudes and beliefs that drive supportive domestic abuse behaviours through public education. They deliver accredited training for frontline professionals, including members of An Garda Síochána, network domestic violence professionals and practitioners through a virtual community of practice, donate books on domestic violence and coercive control to Libraries Ireland, and pilot prevention initiatives through collaborative partnerships. The only organisation in the country solely dedicated to prevention, Haven Horizons, is requesting € 350,000 a year for three years to continue its work.

Speaking at the launch, Sarah Harte Planning and Communications Strategist with Haven Horizons and Irish Examiner columnist said: "*Prevention of DSGBV, in the form of public education, targeted training for frontline professionals and raising public awareness, is a vital part of the jigsaw in combating DSGBV and must be properly resourced given the tsunami of DSGBV.*"

65,000 domestic abuse incidents were reported to An Garda Síochána last year, representing a domestic abuse call to AGS every ten minutes. 60-70% of femicide victims experienced domestic violence and coercive control before being murdered.

Ms. Mc Aleer also stated: "*We are legally obliged under the Istanbul Convention to fund prevention. We need to view domestic, sexual and gender-based abuse as a public health emergency and focus on preventing domestic abuse rather than simply responding to it. Prevention must be named in the next Programme for Government. We are calling on all TDS and Senators to become advocates for a radical new DSGBV Endgame strategy.*"

Children as young as nine have been exposed to pornographic material on social media platforms and sites that are supposedly 'regulated'. 43% of young Irish males felt that pornography influenced both their attitudes to consent and their sexual behaviour.

Ms. Mc Aleer concluded: *“Pornographic material freely available to anyone online who wishes to access it is becoming increasingly violent. It’s how many young people find out about sex. It normalises abuses, shaping how girls and boys construct their identity in relation to sex and intimate relationships. This has a major impact on attitudes and harmful sexist and misogynistic beliefs that support DSGBV and fuel the sky-high levels of violence against women and girls. Any credible response to domestic, sexual and gender-based abuse must include actions at all levels of society, and this means funding prevention initiatives.”*

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Presentation Details: 3 pm ‘Prevention is Everyone’s Business’ event in the Audio Visual (AV) Room on May 7, @3-4 pm

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Haven Horizons focuses on prevention activities including education, research, collaborative partnerships, and piloting best-practice models. www.havenhorizons.com