



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS 2023 REPORT

www.iasp.info

Introduction

The International Association of Suicide Prevention's (IASP) Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are member-led collaborative groups drawing on a global community. They pursue a shared interest in a specific and legitimate suicide prevention topic, with a view to making a substantive contribution to improved understanding, practice or policy relating to the topic; and they provide the opportunity for researchers, professionals, lay people and volunteers to focus deeply on a specific aspect of suicide prevention.



Highlights of 2023 SIG Work

In 2023 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 World Congress in Piran (All).
- Engaged in various online and in-person, IASP and external, workshops, webinars, meetings, seminars, conference events, across all global regions (All).

Policy Work

- Led working group considering policy position on assisted suicide for IASP Executive Committee (Elderly Adults).
- Led and coordinated the working group review and updating guidelines on setting up suicide bereavement support groups. Initiated a Work-Related Suicide Task Force, to develop an open letter on workplace suicides (Workplace).
- Reviewed and updated media guidelines for the WHO publication: [“Preventing Suicide: A Resource for Media Professionals”](#)
- Provided advice/support to NGOs and governments on decriminalisation (Culture).

Academic Publications and Literature Reviews

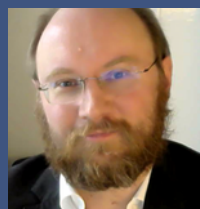
- Collaborated on an international meta-review on the effectiveness of suicide bereavement support (Postvention and Bereavement).
- Conducted reviews of global lived experience research and activities (Lived Experience).
- Supported and disseminated the discussion paper LaMontagne AD, & King, TL. [Work-related suicide: a discussion paper](#). A report prepared for Suicide Prevention Australia, 2023 (Workplace).
- Work group discussions on novel methods and collaborated on a Kenneth Law article [The Kenneth Law Media Event — A Dangerous Natural Experiment | Crisis](#).

Outreach and Engagement Work

- Produced [four podcast episodes](#) on work-related suicide (Workplace).
- Drafted [Outreach Briefs](#) for IASP World Suicide Prevention Day.
- Extending suicide prevention activities to other African countries to understand the cultural dynamics that underlie the criminality of the act (Culture).
- Webinars on suicide prevention in primary care (Primary Care).

New Special Interest Group Established in 2023

The SIG on [Education and Training in Suicide Prevention](#) was launched on the 21st of September in Piran, Slovenia at the IASP 32nd World Congress. This SIG was set up by Professor Manami Kodaka, Dr Anna Baran, Marc Bryant, Associate Professor Nestor D. Kapusta, Professor Charity Akotia, and Associate Professor Laura Shannonhouse. The SIG brings together teachers on different levels of education, researchers, practitioners, and people with lived experience who have a common interest and expertise in education in suicide prevention with the goal of supporting the development of high-quality education in suicide prevention around the world.



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.



Development of Effective National Suicide Prevention Strategy & Practice

supports the development, implementation, and evaluation of national suicide prevention strategies, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). This SIGs work now overlaps with the Partnerships for Life Initiative.



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.



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.



LGBTQIA+ Suicide Prevention

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



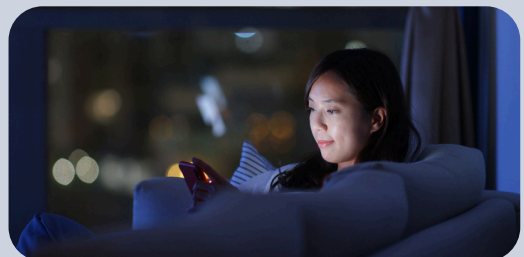
Suicide and Self-Harm in Middle-Aged Adults

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

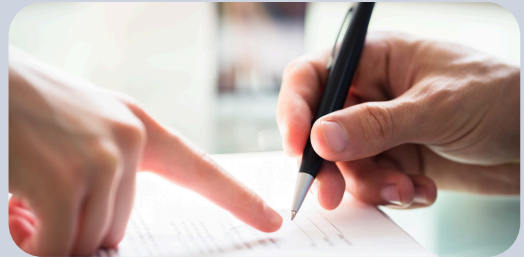
integrates lived experience throughout IASP activities, share information and good practice relating to lived experience with national and international suicide prevention organisations, and promote and support the establishment of lived experience networks/communities globally. We look forward to working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



Overview of the Special Interest Groups

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.



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.



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 - Together, we continue to make impactful contributions to suicide prevention efforts globally.

CONTACT US



Email

membershipandevents@iasp.info

Website

www.iasp.info