

Helping the Helpers: A Cross-Sectoral Workshop on Recognizing and Responding to Brain Injury From Intimate Partner Violence (IPV-BI).

Given many survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) may also be living with ongoing challenges caused by brain injury (BI) through hits to the head, face, or neck and/or strangulation, making sure workers who come into contact with survivors are educated and equipped is critical. This workshop is designed to deliver training to create consistent knowledge and awareness of the hidden public health crisis of IPV-BI across Canada. This event will bring together professionals supporting survivors from a variety of sectors for connection and collaborative learning.

When?: September 25th 8:30am-4:00pm

Where?: Keystone In Owen Sound (1793 3rd Ave W)

How?: Please register by September 18th at [Helping the Helpers: A Cross-Sectoral on Recognizing & Responding to Brain Injury from IPV](#)

Cost?: \$50 cash or cheque made out to “Victim Services Bruce Grey” due on the day of the event

Learning Objectives: At completion of this training, participants will:

- Have a foundational understanding of intimate partner violence and abuse, and brain injury.
- Be able to explain the prevalence of brain injury in women survivors of intimate partner violence, including how it happens, and common signs and symptoms.
- Understand how commonly strangulation occurs in intimate partner violence and be able to recognize specific signs and symptoms.
- Know how brain injury from intimate partner violence affects neurocognitive function, mental health and emotional wellness, and how to support survivors.
- Have a basic understanding of how to take a brain injury and trauma-informed approach to interactions with survivors of brain injury in intimate partner violence.
- Be equipped with tips and tools to respond to those who have experienced brain injury from intimate partner violence.

Outline:**Knowledge Provided**

- Introduction to intimate partner violence
- Introduction to brain injury and its effects as experienced by survivors of intimate partner violence
- Warning signs of immediate life-threatening symptoms known as “Red Flags”, and typical signs and symptoms of brain injury as experienced by survivors of intimate partner violence
- Strangulation in intimate partner violence
- Information on screening for brain injury, and an introduction to an adapted version of the HELPS Screening Tool
- How to accommodate the unique needs of a survivor of intimate partner violence who has a brain injury, and strategies to help manage symptoms
- Introduction to available resources for service providers and survivors.
- Introduction to trauma-informed practice
- The importance of language
- Small group, hands on community-capacity building activities and team problem solving using ideal care pathways and recognition and response tools and protocols
- Discussion Q&A

Presenter:

Dr. Halina (Lin) Haag (she/her) is a CIHR Fellow and Contract Faculty member with the Faculty of Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier University. Her research program is focused on the barriers and facilitating factors influencing mental health, return to work, and social integration encountered by women survivors of intimate partner violence-related brain injury (IPV-BI). Lin is committed to improving outcomes through direct practice, innovative research, and professional education, believing that increased knowledge and understanding in the community is key. She is currently a co-principal investigator on a project tasked with developing training and educational resources for key sectors supporting women experiencing IPV-BI such as healthcare, social support services, and the criminal justice system. In 2021 she was honoured to receive the Neurological Health Charities of Canada's Changemaker Award for her work in IPV-BI. As someone with lived experience of brain injury, she has been a guest speaker addressing issues of disability, brain injury, and marginalization for a variety of international academic, professional, and community-based organizations. Her work is generously supported by a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Post-Doctoral Fellowship and the Public Health Agency of Canada.