



Welcome to the January 2015 LaDDER Newsletter

*Ladder is part of the resources produced as part of the **Here To Stay project**. The project is now entering its final year and the results of the project and its recommendations will be launched at a conference in October. There is still time to make sure that your voice and those of people you support are reflected in the project report. **Please get in touch with Bridget if you would like to take part**. We are especially keen to talk to people from ethnic minority communities who use learning disability services.*

There is an international flavour to this Ladder and details of several conferences.

There are 9 items in this edition of Ladder.

Best wishes

Bridget Fisher

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1. Homelessness, Social Exclusion & Health Inequalities 2015

From Margins to Mainstream

3rd International Symposium -

Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th March 2015

ILEC Conference Centre and Hotel Ibis Earls Court, London SW6.

The symposium is developed by **Pathway** (the homeless health charity) and the Faculty for Homeless and **Inclusion Health** with support from the **Health Foundation**. This is the third symposium bringing together the latest in evidence and best practice from around health and public services to create a digital library of professional development material in this fast developing discipline. **Read more...**

2. The Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity

The Pacific Rim International Conference, considered one of the most ‘diverse gatherings’ in the world, encourages and respects voices from “diverse” perspectives across numerous areas, including: voices from persons representing all disability areas; experiences of family members and supporters across all disability and diversity areas; responsiveness to diverse cultural and language differences; evidence of researchers and academics studying diversity and disability; stories of persons providing powerful lessons; examples of program providers, and; action plans to meet human and social needs in a globalized world.

[Read more...](#)

3. Spirit Possession and Mental Health

9th March - London / 13th March - Manchester

This conference will:

- Discuss possible definitions and different kinds of spirit possession.
- Debate the key elements which typify spirit possession.
- Discuss who can make a diagnosis of spirit possession and how such a diagnosis might be made.
- Compare and contrast how spirit possession might be viewed by clinicians, religious leaders, healers, the “the patient”, family and community members.
- Discuss the value of using patient’s explanatory model of illness.
- Reflect upon the key issues associated with defining what is “normal” and “abnormal”
- Discuss folk healing practices in different cultures and “treatment” options including exorcism.
- Consider whether there is a need to enhance joint working between mental health professionals and transitional healers.

[Read more...](#)

4. Help with information on FGM

The Rights in Exile Information Portal is developing its Resource Page on female genital mutilation (FGM) [Click here...](#)

This includes an 'FGM Resources by Country' list. Rights in Exile are looking for people with expert knowledge about FGM who could write (or learn how to write) witness statements for refugee claims based on fear of FGM. They would very much appreciate it if you could recommend both FGM experts who have done research and published on FGM in Africa, parts of Asia, and the Middle East, and lawyers who are familiar with representing clients who seek asylum because of a fear of FGM.

Any information about NGOs working to end FGM (in practicing as well as non-practicing countries) is also welcome. [Read more...](#)

Please contact [Maja Grundler](#) or [Barbara Harrell-Bond](#)

5. Health on the margins – Commissioning to tackle health inequalities in Gypsy and Traveller communities

26th February
Central Birmingham

English Gypsy and Irish Traveller people are among those experiencing the most significant inequality in healthcare access and outcomes in the UK, including low life expectancy, high co-morbidity, poor mental health, poor infant and maternal outcomes. Health inequalities are estimated to cost the UK economy £5.5 billion every year according to **The Institute of Health Equity at University College London**. In seeking to address this, the Health and Social Care Act (2012) put in place legal duties on Clinical Commissioning Groups to reduce health inequality.

This conference will focus on commissioning outcomes for Gypsy and Traveller people. We will explore ways that improved health and wellbeing outcomes, and reduction of costs associated with health inequality, can be secured via integrated and culturally sensitive commissioning and service provision based in effective local relationships.
Read more...

6. The Harms of Hate - A short film

Seven victims of hate crime share their stories

The Leicester Centre for Hate Studies based at the university of Leicester has produced a short film on hate related incidents and the impact that hate incidents have on victims, their families and wider communities. **Read more...**

7. 'Only together can we beat bullying'

Stonewall are running an anti bullying and anti hate crime campaign. **Sign up here...**

8. East European Roma – Cultural Awareness Training

3rd February 2015
Nottingham Conference Centre, NG1 4BU

An increasing number of service providers are coming into contact with **Roma migrants and refugees from Eastern Europe**. Many have little specific knowledge of Roma communities and this can make it difficult and time-consuming to know how to approach clients and how to address their problems. This Cultural Awareness Training will include an introduction to Roma culture and traditions, language and history. Reference will be made to the differences between Romanian, Polish and Czech Roma. This will provide the backdrop to practically oriented sessions which will look at barriers to accessing services, and more effective ways to engage with Roma families.

The sessions will include case studies relating to different service areas. They will also refer to some of the problems including issues around missing documentation, working with the criminal justice system, and liaising with countries of origin. [Read more...](#)

9. Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion 2014

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation launches its annual report on Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion.

The report looks at how the economic recovery is affecting people in poverty, with specific reference to money, housing, work, benefits and services. [Download the report...](#)

We hope that you have found LaDDER useful and informative

**If you have any information to share for the next edition please send it to
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