



Intelligence

state of the art threat assessment

Contents

- Editor's Note 1
- Upcoming Events 1-2
- Practice Update2-3
- Special Announcements 4

Upcoming Events

Virtual 2020

HCR-20 V3 Workshops

Violence Risk Triage Workshops

Interviewing Skills Workshop

Violence and Mental Health Workshop

Self-Directed Violence Risk Assessment and Management Workshop

Advanced Violence Risk Assessment and Management Workshop

PATRIARCH and MLG Workshop

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Editor's Note



prevalence and severity of gender-based violence around the world. Not only do they draw attention the breadth and depth of this problem, but they also discuss actions and resources that can help to prevent it.

In addition, we have several special announcements. First, Protect International and CONCEPT are collaborating on a new live webinar HCR-20 V3 Case Study Series in the fall highlighting cases from higher education and workplace sectors. Second, we are excited to announce the University of New Mexico Law and Mental Health didactic series, which is a free virtual webinar series focusing on diverse topics relevant to threat assessment professionals.

We hope *Intelligence* will continue to provide a forum for you to share and develop your expertise in threat assessment. We encourage you to contribute and provide feedback.

Sincerely,
 Kelly A. Watt, PhD
 Director and Threat Assessment Specialist at Protect International Risk and Safety Services

As always, *Intelligence* will keep you up to date with recent advances in threat assessment from around the globe through knowledge and experiences shared by world-leading experts.

We hope that you, your colleagues, and your families continue to be as healthy and happy as possible during this challenging time.

We will to continue to focus on addressing the implications of COVID-19 for threat assessment professionals in this issue and to provide you with support and resources to continue the important work that you do.

In this issue, Ms. Tracy Porteous and Ms. Kristi Yuris from the Ending Violence Association of BC will provide a special practice update related to the association between the pandemic and the increased

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Gender-Based Violence and COVID-19: Risk and Resources

Gender-based violence (GBV) continues to be a serious and widespread problem around the world. In Canada, it's estimated that one in three women will experience [sexual assault](#) and one in four women will experience [intimate partner violence](#) in their lifetime. Currently, [intimate partner violence](#) accounts for one in every four violent crimes reported to police and sexual assault and intimate partner violence are the only violent crimes in Canada that are on the rise.

For many years, there has been a growing body of evidence outlining the connection between disasters (e.g., hurricanes, floods, forest fires, tsunamis, earthquakes and pandemics) and increases in sexual assault and intimate partner violence. Some areas across the world have formally researched and documented these impacts, while others have relied on anecdotal evidence (e.g., news outlets). As responders and threat assessment professionals, we must know that increases in GBV during and post disasters is a given.

Recently, the United Nations has named GBV the “shadow pandemic” of COVID-19 because disasters exacerbate pre-existing gender inequalities and create social and economic conditions that can heighten risk factors for violence. Risk factors associated with GBV include problems related to employment, finances, substance use, mental health, and stress, as well as problems accessing supports and services—many of the same problems we are seeing as a result of COVID-19. These risk factors are surfacing in communities around the world and, as expected, they are resulting in an increased frequency and severity of GBV. This increase, in turn, is causing enormous pressure on the already under-resourced sector responsible for responding to GBV.

Indeed, within Canada, a recent report published by the [Ending Violence Association of Canada and Anova](#) highlights that the “conditions created by the



pandemic were ones that were widely recognized by advocates as likely to increase the risk of violence, while at the same time making it more difficult for those experiencing violence to seek help—especially given the pre-existing challenges facing the already overburdened and under-resourced GBV sector.” Anti-violence services have reported experiencing an unprecedented demand for emergency support from victims during COVID-19. They are also finding that the violence taking place during COVID-19 appears to be more severe in that there are more reports of strangulations, use of weapons, and more aggravated violence occurring over days and weeks of confinement than prior to the pandemic.

In light of our understanding of the association between
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Upcoming Webinars

CONCEPT and Protect International “Wednesday Webinar” Series

Violence Risk/Threat Assessment Case Illustrations: Higher Education
7 October 2020

Violence Risk/Threat Assessment Case Illustrations: Law Enforcement
4 November 2020

Violence Risk/Threat Assessment Case Illustrations: Workplace
9 December 2020

[Learn more ...](#)

Gender-Based Violence and COVID-19: Risk and Resources (continued)

disasters and increased risk of GBV, the Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC) has been taking action since the beginning of COVID-19. EVA BC is a provincial umbrella organization that supports the work of over [300 anti-violence programs and initiatives](#) that respond to GBV. Among the program types connected to EVA BC are two first responder

To illustrate what British Columbia has done in response to the increased challenges posed by the pandemic, [EVA BC took action](#) by having bi-weekly conference calls to stay in close touch with front line workers. Our goal was to offer support, find out what they needed and the resources to meet their immediate needs. During this time, we obtained and

can respond effectively to heightened demand for services and support.

We recommend that all threat assessment professionals around the world support or implement similar actions to reduce the prevalence and severity of GBV during COVID-19. If you know of someone who is at increased



programs, Inter-Agency Case Assessment Teams and Community Based Victim Assistance programs. These key initiatives have mandates to respond to urgent reports of GBV. They provide support, identify and manage risk, increase safety and help those harmed by violence navigate the complex justice and health and child protection systems—each of which have become more difficult to access and navigate due to COVID-19. The wraparound, cross-sectoral teams under EVA BC are considered a best practice standard in the prevention of potentially lethal violence and have helped thousands of people across BC.

distributed over 400 cell phones and data plans for victims facing high risk intimate partner violence as well as provided cell phones and data plans for front line workers. We secured and covered the cost of conference call lines for all Inter-Agency Case Assessment Teams in BC. We coordinated the development of a new cross sectoral High-Risk Protocol for rapid response to cases of escalating risk. We produced and distributed a series of public service announcements and information bulletins to assist those facing and perpetrating GBV to get help. We also continue to advocate for increased funding to front line programs so that they

risk of GBV or who has experienced GBV, it is critical for them to be connected them with a skilled, trauma informed advocate or to be supported by a trained wrap-around team if available in their community.

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HCR-20 V3 Practice Case Series

CONCEPT

PALO ALTO UNIVERSITY
CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES DIVISION

CONCEPT and Protect International have partnered to release a case study series using the *Historical-Clinical-Risk-Management-20 Version 3* (HCR-20 V3) to assess and manage violence risk! Each of the practice cases are derived from real, sanitized cases across correctional and forensic psychiatric settings. Participants are able to sharpen and maintain their skills administering the HCR-20 V3 with the added opportunity of consulting with internationally recognized experts on each case. Each practice case includes an overview of the HCR-20 V3, self-directed case review, and case discussion. Emphasis is placed on how to rate the presence and relevance of each of the HCR-20 V3 items, how to formulate about past violence, how to scenario plan about future violence, how to develop case management strategies and tactics, and how to provide summary judgments about overall risk.

There are four cases available on demand through CONCEPT, including two correctional and two forensic psychiatric cases. In addition, this Fall, participants can join Protect International live through CONCEPT for four new cases across two new sectors—**higher education** and the **workplace**. Participants should expect to devote approximately 2 to 4 hours each week across three weeks to complete a case in the live webinar series. The upcoming live series will take place between 25 September to 20 November 2020. For all of the cases in the Practice Case Series Continuing Education (CE/CPD) credits are offered through CONCEPT.

Sign up for CONCEPT and Protect International's mailing list to receive information about all upcoming live and on-demand virtual training opportunities. For instance, expect to see the second versions of the RSVP, MLG, PATRIARCH, in 2021 along with Workshops, Webinars, and a Practice Case Series!



Free Virtual University of New Mexico Law and Mental Health Didactic Series

The University of New Mexico, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and University of New Mexico Behavioral Health Services Division are proud to host the University of New Mexico Law and Mental Health didactic series virtually. This weekly seminar takes place through Zoom on Tuesdays from 12 – 1 pm MST. The series covers a variety of topics that are related to law, mental health, and threat assessment including bias, competency to stand trial, assessing and managing risk, ethics, and report writing. This series would be particularly relevant to threat assessment professionals interested in both broadening and advancing their knowledge and skills. Attendance is free, is on a first come first serve basis, and participants can earn 1 free CEU per week. For more information or to be added to our email list, please contact Julie Brovko, Ph.D. at HSC-LawMentalHealth@salud.unm.edu.