



SAFESOC Annual Advisory Group Meeting

Wednesday 20th July 2022 11.00-12.00

Dr Philippa Tomczak gave an overview of work done to date and current articles being worked on. An extensive programme of work regarding prisoner death investigations is summarised [here](#). A range of academic articles are being written and the team are producing an impact-focused recommendations document.

Dr Cathie Traynor gave a presentation on learning from 'truth commissions' to increase prison safety. Such an approach has the potential to reduce blame, explore systemic hazards and staff errors, and help stakeholders to consider how they are embedded to prevent deaths. She posed a question to advisors: *Beyond an academic paper, how should we disseminate our ideas and who is the best target audience?*

The discussion explored the usefulness of working groups with investigators/practitioners.

Sara Hyde introduced her research on the impacts of prisoner suicide and self-harm on healthcare staff, expert stakeholders and health and justice managers. She has begun analysis on a subset of interviews conducted with former nurses. She posed the question: *Could you please suggest where I may recruit more former prison healthcare staff as participants?*

Dr Gillian Buck introduced two articles-in-progress which demonstrate the important roles that (former) prisoners can play in enhancing regulation efforts. She also discussed a coproduced short film which highlights the importance of listening to families' experiences when responding to deaths in prison, see: [LUNG \(2021\). Woodhill. Short Film](#). She posed the

question: *What are the most important things to consider when involving people with lived experiences in regulatory activities and the coproduction of resources?*

The discussion covered potential benefits and harms of marginalised stories in documentary films, ethnographic research and media representations, including the difficult balance of amplifying voice whilst not sensationalising. It was noted how well LUNG have supported Janet Farrar throughout the production process. NC provided the following useful links:

- [Ethical Journalism](#)
- [Race equality](#)
- [Sound delivery](#) (lived experience informed Media)

Dr Tom Kemp gave a presentation regarding an article about international rights-based prison regulation. He posed the questions:

- What are the best examples of the impact of international prison regulation?
- How has international prison regulation impacted your research/ role?
- What is the relationship, if any, between regulating prison conditions and rates of imprisonment?
- In what circumstances should we understand reform efforts to be examples of cruel optimism (Berlant, 2011)?

The discussion covered overcrowded prisons, the Mandela rules and limited changes to prisons/imprisonment despite a range of governments focused on the issue.

For updates on the work of the team, please visit <https://www.safesoc.co.uk/>