

## SEMINAR

# Physical ill-health in abuse survivors: Somatisation or domestic torture?

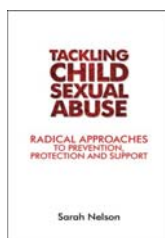
**Thursday 6th October 2016 at 3pm**

**Room 1G05, Dalhousie Building, University of Dundee**

Presented by Dr Sarah Nelson as the first seminar in a two-part series on health issues experienced by adult survivors of sexual abuse

Sarah presents research and practice evidence for very high levels of illness, chronic pain and physical disability in adult survivors of child sexual abuse (CSA). Yet these have been relatively neglected in comparison to their mental health issues. An over-emphasis on psychosomatic diagnoses has hampered an open-minded search for both causes and effective treatments. She questions popular, stigmatising theories of somatisation or needy care-seeking, presenting suggestive evidence that many debilitating conditions may result directly from severe, prolonged sexual violence. Physical health issues require to become a priority: in research with survivors, and in collaborations with specialists, in fields as diverse as sports medicine and work against political torture. Recognition of the gravity of survivors' ill health will also raise the perceived gravity of CSA as a serious crime, directing more effort and resources towards primary prevention and early detection of sexual abuse

Sarah has just published (June 2016) *Tackling Child Sexual Abuse: Radical Approaches to Prevention, Protection and Support* (Policy Press). She was an adviser to the Scottish Government's Survivor Scotland team from 2006 to 2011, and adviser to the Scottish Parliament's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Scotland (Scottish Parliament, 2014)



**ALL WELCOME**

To book your place at this FREE seminar please contact  
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