

Autism & Sexual Violence: Understanding key drivers

Professor Clare Allely & David Russell



THE
PREVENTION
COLLECTIVE

Online Webinar – (Monday 28th September 2026 - 14:30hrs to 16:00hrs UK Time)

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£26 per person (£18 per person for Third Sector)

For further information contact:

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Join **Professor Clare Allely** and **David Russell** for a 90-minute, research-informed exploration of autism and sexual violence. This session will examine the complex and often misunderstood factors that shape risk, vulnerability and offending behaviours within autistic populations. Drawing on current evidence, lived experience insights and emerging practice, the webinar will unpack key prevalent themes, including social communication differences, sensory and cognitive profiles, misunderstandings of social and sexual norms and the impact of isolation, loneliness, coercion and exploitation.

Participants will gain a clearer understanding of the drivers that can contribute to harmful behaviours in autistic individuals, as well as the contextual factors that increase vulnerability to victimisation. The session will highlight implications for assessment, prevention and support across education, justice, clinical and safeguarding settings.

This webinar is designed for practitioners, educators, clinicians and professionals seeking a nuanced, compassionate and evidence-based understanding of this sensitive and complex area.

Meet the Facilitators



Professor Clare Allely

Professor of Forensic Psychology at the University of Salford and is an affiliate member of the Gillberg Neuropsychiatry Centre at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Clare is an Honorary Research Fellow at the College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences affiliated to the Institute of Health and Wellbeing at the University of Glasgow. She is a Chartered Member and Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society. Clare acts as an expert witness in criminal cases involving defendants with autism spectrum disorder and is a consultant for the Irish Prison Service. She has published over 150 academic peer-reviewed articles and book chapters.

She is author of *The Psychology of Extreme Violence: A Case Study Approach to Serial Homicide, Mass Shooting, School Shooting and Lone-actor Terrorism* and *Autism Spectrum Disorder in the Criminal Justice System: A Guide to Understanding Suspects, Defendants and Offenders with Autism*.



David Russell

David is the founder and CEO of The Prevention Collective and his experience includes providing assessments and interventions for vulnerable children, adolescents and adults within the field of sexual harm and violence. He has also worked in custodial and secure settings. David provides training on a range of themes on sexual violence and has facilitated multidisciplinary training internationally. He currently sits on the NOTA (National Organisation for the Treatment of Abuse) Scotland Executive Committee, supporting professionals responding to sexual harm. He is the lead author of *Restorative Justice & Sexual Harm: The Voices of Those Who Have Harmed* and is currently involved in a research project in collaboration with the University of Birmingham, exploring prevention strategies within incel subcultures. David is the lead author of 'Harmful sexual behaviour & autism: supporting children and young people' (Russell et al, 2026).