

In respect of: Janina (33 years)

Background

The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (SLP) commissioned a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) into the death of Janina who was murdered by her husband Jonas. Jonas was found dead at the scene having taken his own life. Janina and Jonas had been together 14 years and married for 10 years at the time of her death.

Janina and Jonas were both originally from Lithuania, having moved to the UK in 2012. Jonas was not known to police in the UK or Lithuania. Neither Janina nor Jonas had come to the attention of any agency with concerns about domestic abuse. Information gathered from the couple's friends after Janina's murder, indicated that there had been domestic abuse in the relationship, in the form of controlling behaviour and threats of suicide. In the months prior to her death, Janina had confided in friends that she intended to separate from Jonas and stated she had told him so.

Key Learning

- There is a lack of public awareness, nationally, of the risks at the point of separation in a relationship.
- Cultural and language barriers can impact on the likelihood that domestic abuse victims from Eastern European communities will recognise and report domestic abuse.
- Diverse cultural attitudes can result in a lack of awareness of services available to support victims who are being abused through coercive and controlling behaviours.

Improving Practice

A range of activity is currently ongoing in Lincolnshire regarding Eastern European engagement and includes:

- **LDASS Digital Platform** - has the option for users to choose which language to access it in. Universal Offer of Support (ldass.org.uk).
- **IDVA** – Independent Domestic Violence Advocates: LDASS have an eastern European national who is able to support eastern European nationals in the community (if required) when referred to MARAC.
- **Interpreter services** are available via LDASS - as required.
- **Outreach & Engagement Team** with DA Champions, Community Engagement Events, Surviving to Thriving – community groups, Libraries Initiatives and posters and stickers with scan codes to support non-English speaking victims to access information in a language of their choice.
- **DA Training** – all training for professionals explores barriers in understanding and accessing DA services, including cultural perspectives on understanding risks in specific communities and encouraging the use of professional curiosity.



Next Steps – What you can do:

Promote the Communications!

- **Social media and communications campaigns** - including 16 days of Action, are ongoing in collaboration with partner agencies and offer specific content for Eastern European communities.
- **DA Newsletter** – monthly newsletter distributed to partners with links to specific services and resources including those pertaining to Eastern European communities.
- **Crimestoppers** – campaign currently in the planning stages to be delivered jointly with Lincolnshire Police and Lincolnshire County Council with a specific theme of raising awareness in Eastern European communities of understanding domestic abuse, overcoming myths about the UK system of support and promotion of local services.
- **Lincolnshire County Council website** – links to Eastern European organisations are available for public and professionals to access advice, guidance and resources, via an option to translate.
[Domestic Abuse – Domestic abuse - Lincolnshire County Council](#)



You can access up-to-date information from DHR's on the SLP website.

[Domestic homicide reviews – Lincolnshire County Council](#)