


Saint Paul  Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project

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September 26, 2017

Chief Todd Axtell  
Saint Paul Police Department  
367 Grove Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Dear Chief Axtell:

It is my pleasure to invite you and Senior Commander Axel Henry to provide instruction at the *Blueprint for Safety* presentations scheduled during the week of November 28 thru December 3, 2017 in Ireland.

The intent of the trip is to assist Haven Horizons and the National Garda Protective Services Bureau (NGPSB) of Ireland to be the first international site to adapt and implement the *Saint Paul Blueprint for Safety* as an Irish National Blueprint for Safety.

Your travel costs (flight, local travel, lodging and meals) will be covered by the host in Ireland – Haven Horizons, at an approximate cost of \$2,800 per person.

This major event is a testament to St. Paul's unprecedented leadership in protecting victims, holding dangerous offenders accountable and working towards one day ending domestic violence.

We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,



Shelley J. Cline  
Executive Director

## The “Irish National Blueprint for Safety”

*The first international site to adapt and implement the Saint Paul Blueprint for Safety*

Haven Horizons, located in Ennis, Ireland (County Clare), is a voluntary organization committed to the elimination of gender based violence in their society. (<http://havenhorizons.com>)

Haven Horizons is set up to research and initiate evidence based international best practice models in the area of domestic violence. Their focus is on education and prevention work, and they are driven by the need to break the cycle of violence and to ensure that children can grow up in violence free homes.

Haven Horizons are engaged in piloting models that increase victim safety, hold perpetrators accountable and change societal attitudes to gender based violence. Haven Horizons aims to eliminate the conditions that give rise to inequality and all forms of violence against women and children.

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In March of 2016, two advocates from Haven Horizons attended Praxis International’s Inaugural Blueprint for Safety Institute in Saint Paul, MN. They stayed an additional week to learn more about St. Paul’s creation of the Blueprint for Safety. They met with the St. Paul Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (SPIP) advocates and Executive Director, SPPD patrol officers and FSVU investigators, prosecutors from the City Attorney’s Office and Praxis International. They were convinced that the Blueprint for Safety was the best model to pilot that will increase victim safety, hold perpetrators accountable and change societal attitudes to gender based violence.

Upon their return to County Clare, Ireland, Haven Horizons shared their learnings with the National Garda Protective Services Bureau (NGPSB). Together, they set forth to be the first international site to adapt and implement the Saint Paul Blueprint for Safety, the “Irish National Blueprint for Safety” demonstration site ( <http://havenhorizons.com/blueprint-for-safety> ). They chose County Clare as the pilot site. A seminar proposal was accepted and approved by the top officials in the Garda (police) for a Blueprint seminar during the Women’s Aid 16 Days of Action Campaign, November 25 – December 10, 2017. The theme for the 2017 event is “Change the Conversation”. <https://www.womensaid.ie/16days>

During the 16 Days of Action, awareness and understanding of the complex nature of domestic violence is built, challenging the victim blaming culture and deeply embedded myths in Irish society. It is during this important time-period that Haven Horizons and the NGPSB has invited Saint Paul Blueprint for Safety practitioners from SPIP and SPPD, along with Praxis International, to assist in the training session to inform national and local criminal justice system agencies, and provide training and input so County Clare may begin the Blueprint for Safety demonstration initiative.

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Haven Horizons is covering the costs of flights, lodging, food and travel in Ireland for 3 high-ranking practitioners and for 1 survivor whose life has been positively impacted by Saint Paul’s best practice response to domestic-related crimes. They have asked that the Saint Paul practitioners’ agencies pay for their employees’ time.

Since this event is being co-organized by the Garda, it is critical to have a high-ranking SPPD officer speak from the police perspective.

Currently, Haven Horizons is organizing the locations for seminars, training events, live national TV programs, and other media coverage in both Dublin and Ennis, Ireland. Once completed, the dates of travel for the Saint Paul practitioners will be confirmed, though it is likely the travel dates will be around November 28<sup>th</sup> – December 6<sup>th</sup>. They undoubtedly want participation at their briefing in Dublin for national agencies in the Garda Headquarters on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. All other events are being arranged around this date.