

# AFINet Newsletter

## August 2014



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## Hello and welcome to the AFINet newsletter!

This is the second AFINet Newsletter, so we hope it finds you well and enjoying whichever season you are in depending on where you are!

### Membership under the spotlight

We are delighted to report that AFINet continues to grow. After approximately six months we have 61 members (plus the seven core UK members) from 17 different countries.



Membership continues to be diverse to represent a range of countries, organisations and professions, and how people work with families affected by addiction. We hope this upward trend in membership continues!

### Membership map



AFINet Members are from:

- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Finland
- Germany
- Hong Kong
- India
- Iran
- Ireland
- Italy
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- South Africa
- Spain
- Uganda
- UK
- USA

### Fast Facts

Since the launch of the website in February 2014 we have had:

- Over **245,000** website hits
- **3,300** unique visitors
- From over **50** different countries

GO TO SURVEY

<http://www.afinetwork.info/members/website-survey>



Follow us on

### International updates in this issue

Rather than write updates ourselves about work that is going on around the world, we have invited some of our members (who we have been working with particularly closely) to tell us about what they have been doing.

In this newsletter we have updates from Hong Kong and Nigeria. We very much want to encourage more members to write something about their work for the website or a future newsletter, so if you would like to do this, then please get in touch [contact@afinetwork.info](mailto:contact@afinetwork.info).

### Current work in Hong Kong

By [Grace Leung & Richard Velleman](#)

In May 2014 Richard Velleman and Grace M Leung ran a 5-Step Method training workshop organized by the Centre of Behavioral Health, The University of Hong Kong.

There were 34 trainees: nurses, social workers and counsellors working in the field of addiction, and the workshop was extremely well received.

The SQFM(AA) is being translated into Chinese for their use, with the help of Jessica Lam; and the Self Help Handbook for relatives of gamblers is also being translated.

More than twenty of the trainees from the May 2014 training would like some supervision for the next 6 months and hope to become Accredited 5-Step Practitioners.



The practicalities of assessing competence when the intervention is undertaken in a non-English language are being examined.

In May 2015 Richard and Grace will run the second set of 5-Step Method training, immediately before the Asia Pacific Problem Gambling and Addiction Conference (APPGAC), where Richard will also give a Keynote presentation on affected family members.

See Grace's and other profile pages at:

<http://www.afinetwork.info/community-builder/userprofile/grace>

### Current work in Nigeria

By [Akanidomo Ibanga](#)

Several researchers (Akan, Juliet and Zamani) have come together to raise the profile of family members affected by a relative's alcohol and drug use.

In order to do this, they are gathering primary research data on the experiences of family members in Nigeria.

They have conducted focus group discussions with people from the general population to explore the role of alcohol/drugs in Intimate Partner Violence and interviewed health care professionals about their exposure and response to alcohol or drug induced violence.

The researchers have also conducted a national household survey in two geo-political regions to determine the extent and nature of harms that people are experiencing as a result of other people's drinking; and used mixed methods research to investigate the experience of living with an alcohol or drug-using relative and compare to data we have from other countries.



The findings of these various studies show that though the presentation may be the same as family members in other cultures there are important ways in which this experience is different for family members in Nigeria. It is hoped that these initial studies will lead to further, larger scale research.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Akanidomo or view his profile page at:

<http://www.afinetwork.info/about-afinet/team/akanidomo-ibanga>

### AFINet developments

By **AFINet UK**

In the UK our development of AFINet has prompted us to think about our UK based work.

To this end we have decided to re-brand ourselves and so the UK ADF Group will now be known as AFINet UK.

We very much hope that members in other countries/regions may similarly come together to create other off-shoots from the broader AFINet umbrella.

For example, AFINet Africa, AFINet Asia, AFINet South America, AFINet Australasia; and maybe some countries will have sufficient membership to be able to develop country-specific groupings as well (AFINet USA, or AFINet Australia).

We are continuing to make progress in the UK to establish AFINet – the International network as an ‘unregistered charity’. We hope to have achieved this by the end of the year, and to appoint Trustees and hold our first AGM in mid 2015.

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### AFINet Survey: What do YOU think so far?



As AFINet, and its website, is a new venture we are keen to find out from you what you think of the website so we can continue to develop it to be useful to all of you.

A central aim of AFINet is for it to be run **by** and **for** all of us, and we are keen to hear your views about how we can achieve this.

So, we invite you to complete a brief survey to give us your feedback on AFINet so far.

The questionnaire takes about 10 minutes to complete and closes on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014. We will post a summary of the survey findings on the AFINet website and in a future Newsletter.

**AFINet SURVEY AVAILABLE NOW!**

Please follow the link to complete the survey:

<http://www.afinetwork.info/members/website-survey>



### Getting involved

There are lots of ways to stay in touch and to meet new colleagues from across the world.

Although we are in the early stages, we would encourage you to use and help us all develop our membership areas.

### Online Resources

You can see current member profiles and new AFINet members by accessing the Members List:

<http://www.afinetwork.info/members/afinetwork-members>

Stay in touch with colleagues and share ideas in the member's forum:

<http://www.afinetwork.info/forum/index>

Browse and contribute to our online documents library:

<http://www.afinetwork.info/documents/documents-and-publications>

And don't forget to let us know what you think by completing our **online survey** here:

<http://www.afinetwork.info/members/website-survey>

### Contact details

 [contact@afinetwork.info](mailto:contact@afinetwork.info)

 [admin@afinetwork.info](mailto:admin@afinetwork.info)

 <http://www.afinetwork.info/>

 [@AFINetwork](https://twitter.com/AFINetwork)

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To Paul Orford (West5Web) for his work and support in getting the AFINet website up and running, and maintained!

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