

## **Words Matter: Impact and Prevention of Childhood Verbal Abuse With the World Health Organization and UCL**

**Thursday 11 April 2024, 10.00–17.00 BST**

Location: Online via Zoom

- 09.40 – 10.00**      **Opening of waiting room for online participants**  
(Please note that online participants will be admitted to the conference from 10.00)
- 10.00 – 10.15**      **Welcome, introductions, and event overview**  
Professor Peter Fonagy, Head of the Division of Psychology & Language Sciences,  
University College London, UK and CEO, Anna Freud
- 10.15 – 10.30**      **Words Matter – The founder’s story**  
Jessica Bondy, Founder Words Matter, UK
- 10.30 – 11.15**      **Childhood verbal abuse as a maltreatment subtype: Exploring the unification  
of definitions and measures and future implications**  
Professor Shanta R. Dube, Ph.D., MPH, Professor and Director, Master of Public  
Health Program, Department of Public Health in the Levine College of Health  
Sciences, Wingate University, US
- Q&A and discussion
- 11.15 – 12.00**      **Prevalence and impact of verbal abuse and other forms of childhood  
adversity**  
Professor Mark Bellis, Director of Research, and Innovation at Liverpool John  
Moores University and founder of WHO Collaborating Centre in Violence  
Prevention
- Q&A and discussion
- 12.00 – 12.45**      **The Golden Gift – Developmental support to identify, activate and develop skills  
that contribute to constructive interaction**  
Maria Aarts, Director and Founder of Marte Meo International, Eindhoven
- Q&A and discussion
- 12.45 – 13.30**      **LUNCH BREAK**

- 13.30 – 13.40**      **Afternoon welcome and overview**  
Dr Manasi Kumar, Research Professor at the Institute for Excellence in Health Equity, NYU Grossman School of Medicine and Affiliate Associate Professor at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Nairobi, Kenya
- 13.40 – 14.25**      **Costs of inaction against childhood verbal abuse: Implications for society and the economy**  
Professor Xiangming Fang, Professor & Director of the Center for Health Economics and Policy at China Agricultural University and the School of Public Health at Georgia State University
- Q&A and Discussion
- 14.25 – 15.10**      **Applying the Socio-Ecological Framework: Using data and evidence in practice and policymaking**  
Professor Catherine Maternowska, Honorary Professor of Violence Prevention for Young People, Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh, UK and Jonathan Kifunda, Founder and Executive Director, Thubutu Africa Initiatives.
- Q&A and Discussion
- 15.10 – 15.20**      **BREAK**
- 15.20 – 16.05**      **The neurobiological consequences of childhood verbal abuse**  
Dr Martin Teicher, Ph.D., MD, Director of the Developmental Biopsychiatry Research Program at McLean Hospital and Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School.
- Q&A and Discussion
- 16.05 – 16.50**      **Moving from research to practice**  
Dr Alexander Butchart, Unit Head, and Dr Berit Kieselbach, Technical Officer, Violence Prevention Unit, Social Determinants of Health Department, World Health Organization
- Q&A and Discussion
- 16.50 – 17.00**      **Closing remarks – Professor Peter Fonagy and Jessica Bondy**
- 17:00**              **CONFERENCE ENDS**