



***VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL
COLLOQUIUM
On MILITARY SEXUAL & OTHER
FORMS OF ABUSE***

Hosted by the
ASCN International Program on Military, Veterans and Families Wellbeing

The Australasian Services Care Network and its partners Forward Assist and Salute Her UK extend an Invitation for you to join them for the ***“Virtual International Colloquium on Military Sexual and Other Forms of Abuse”***.

This Colloquium brings together a range of International Thought Leaders to help participants to explore the issue of Military Sexual and Other Forms of Abuse and its impact on Military Service Members, Veterans and their immediate Family across the 5 Eyes Countries.

The issue of Military Sexual and Other Forms of Abuse is not exclusively directed at a particular gender, those of different sexual orientation or any other group within the Military. It impacts people of all genders, orientations and backgrounds and for many it has lifelong consequences.

The aim of this conversation is to shine a light on the issue and to share what we know about it and evidence informed responses and interventions to address the issue and support those affected by it.

COLLOQUIUM PROGRAM Part A

Session 1

“Heroine “Women’s Voices”

In this presentation Award winning, International Actor, Writer, Producer and Advocate for zero tolerance of Military Sexual Abuse, Mary Jane Wells will be sharing from the stories of Survivors of Military Sexual Abuse to give them a public voice to share their experiences to inform and stimulate action to address the issue of Military Sexual Abuse and better support survivors in their recovery.

Date: Wednesday 22nd of March 2023

Time: **Australia** 8.00 am Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and 7.00am Brisbane

New Zealand 10.00 am

The Netherlands 10.00 pm Amsterdam, Tuesday 21st of March 2023

The UK 9.00 pm London, Tuesday 21st of March 2023

Canada 5.00 pm Toronto, 2.00 pm Vancouver, Tuesday 21st of March 2023

The USA 5.00 pm New York, 2.00 pm Los Angeles, Tuesday 21st of March 2023

The presentations will be followed by an interactive Session that will allow participants to ask questions about points raised in the presentation or other issues related to the topic.

TO REGISTER

To participate in this Webinar with Mary Jane Wells Register at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eljfBOEFTI-bdS-XpOaGMA

When you have registered you will receive information on how to access the webinar online

If you have any queries regarding the Webinars or Registration, Email the ASCN (New Zealand) Secretariat at ascn.nz@gmail.com.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER



Mary Jane Wells

Mary Jane Wells trained as an actor at the Royal Scottish Conservatoire, doing theatre in the UK and Europe for 12 years prior to her long-term love affair with the US. She is an award-winning actor and writer who has performed at The Mark Taper Forum with an adaptation of French classic, *The Red Balloon*, returning later with a solo show, *Martha* which toured to the Annenberg Centre, the Kennedy Center, the New Victory on Broadway, and at an international showcase in Philadelphia. She has toured extensively with the Smithsonian and Honolulu Theatre.

Mary Jane is now based in Los Angeles and has a full-time career as an award-winning voice actor [there](#). She loves [transformative stories](#) and has turned her focus to writing and constructing narrative after several years of work as a story coach. She has been involved in writing and creating plays and films including an award-winning Documentary [Holy Hell](#) that she wrote and produced with its director.

Mary Jane is an advocate for the wellbeing of military service members everywhere especially those who have experienced Military Sexual Assault and harassment. In this work she uses her skills and training to share the stories of survivors and give them a voice.

She wrote her first play on this issue, [Heroine](#), in 2017 and performed it at [Capital Theatres, Edinburgh](#). The play tells the true story about a living survivor of Military sexual trauma. It became an unlikely hit, and its heavily anonymized subject “Danna Davis” was often secretly in the audience. After winning a [Made in Scotland Award](#), *Heroine* was booked for a month at [Assembly at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2018](#), shortlisted for the Situp Award, Longlisted for the Amnesty Award, won the Scottish Arts Trust Award and sold the stage rights to 5 territories.

Mary Jane was invited to debut *Heroine* in the US at [The Kennedy Center in 2020](#) after a Scottish tour to [the Traverse theatre](#) and [Perth Rep theatre](#). The play generated standing ovations every night and raised interest in many quarters on the issue of Military Sexual Trauma. Congresswoman Jackie Speier who spoke on *Heroine*'s after show panel went on to champion overdue but groundbreaking change for survivors 12 months later in [the Senate](#).

Mary Jane launched the audiobook of *Heroine* in 2021, winning an [Earphone Award in 2021](#) and [An Audie Award for Best Original Work in 2022](#). (Other winners were Lin Manuel Miranda and Barack Obama: *Heroine* was selected over Penguin Random House and Audible Originals in its shortlist of four.)

As a creator-producer Mary Jane was invited to speak and perform at the opening of the [UN Conference About Sexual Violence In Conflict, London with Angelina Jolie and William Hague in 2015](#). She has also spoken and performed at a number of events in 2021 and 2022 and is pleased to be able to contribute to the 2023 ASCN Virtual International Colloquium on Military Sexual and other forms of abuse.

Her next new solo show, *The Good Girl*, is a recent recipient of sponsorship. She partners with Author's Republic, Capital Theatres and The Kennedy Center from the very beginning - for what she hopes will be an irreverently hilarious new show for those who care for and live with Dementia.

It is her wildest dream to serve with storytelling and create appropriate social impact where possible.

maryjanewells.org

heroinetheplay.com

ABOUT THE SERIES

This series of real time education and information sharing webinars has been developed by ASCN an Australian and New Zealand Not For Profit organisation in collaboration with its partners in each of the 5 Eyes Countries (Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom).

The Webinars in the series are being presented by International Thought Leaders and Researchers from each of the 5 Eyes Countries and Robert Lippiatt from ASCN is the chair of the series. Robert has had significant international experience chairing and facilitating Defence and Veterans Forums

Each Webinar is intended to share key issues and insights on Military Veteran and Families Transition and post service life gained through research and other ongoing work with military members, veterans and their families in the relevant country and to stimulate ongoing conversations and collaborations leading to enhanced Wellbeing outcomes.

Watch out for information and registration instructions for further Webinars in the series in 2023.

ABOUT US

ASCN (New Zealand) in conjunction with ASCN (Australia) form the Trans-Tasman Australasian Services Care Network (ASCN).

This Not for profit Network acts as a neutral and independent hub for discussion and action by Government, Research, Service Providers and Advocacy on health and wellbeing questions and issues that impact military, veterans, public safety officers and their families in both countries.

It is committed to improving the life-long health and wellbeing of current and former members of the Defence Force (Regular and Reserve), Public Safety Organisations and their Families

SERIES PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

ASCN is pleased to partner with UK Charities Forward Assist and Salute Her UK to develop and present the webinar series on Military Sexual and other forms of abuse.