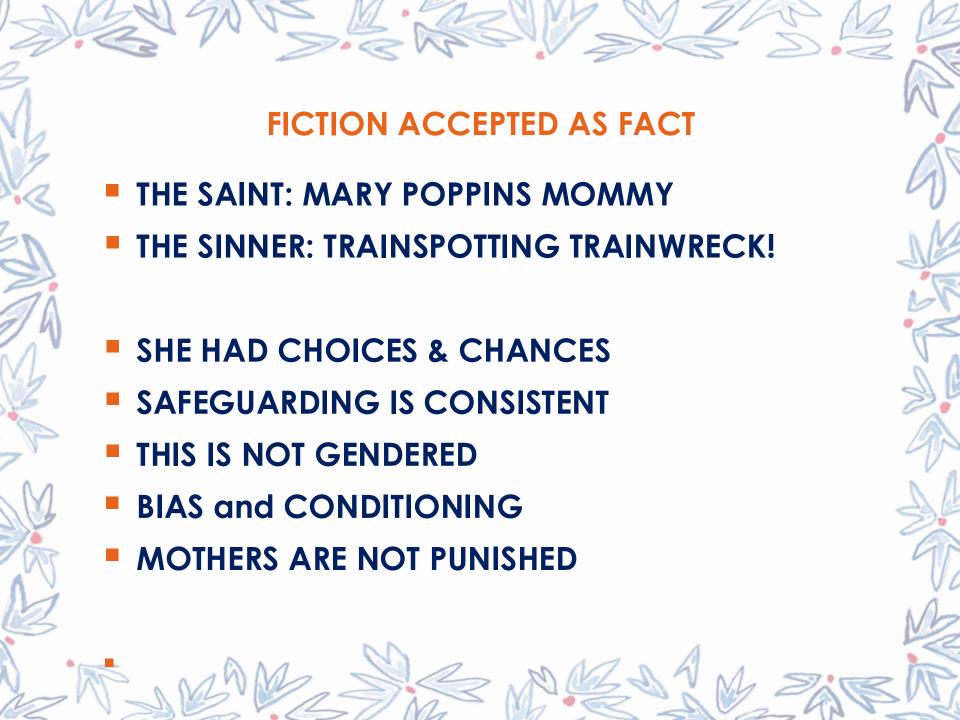


Redefining Drug Treatment For Mothers who use drugs

HR M2M – Harm Reduction Mother 2 Mother

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UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTHS

- 2009 2022 114% increase in drug related deaths for women compared to men 54%1
- In 2022, over 2,000 women in the UK died of drug related causes¹
- Women* who use drugs experience gender-based violence at up to 25 times the rate experienced by women in the general public²
- Women who used substances or with mental health problems accounted for 40% of maternal deaths that occurred within a year after pregnancy in 2018-2020⁴
- Over 96% of adoptions in England & Wales were 'forced' according to data from 2014⁵
- There has been a sharp increase in Child Protection Plans(CPPs) issued by local authorities (+95% from 2008-2017) and an even more dramatic increase in CPPs issued due to emotional harm (+164%)⁶ but what's really behind these numbers?

Office for National Statistics (ONS) Deaths related to drug poisoning in England and Wales: 2022

Drug Policy Network SEE: Campaign to Eliminate Violence Against Women Who Use Drugs, Nov 2023

Gilmour, L., Honeybul, L., Lewis, S. et al. Scoping review: mapping dinical guidelines and policy documents that address the needs of women who are dependent on drugs during the perinatal period. BMC Pregnancy Childbirth 24, 84 (2024)

Kindty, E., Horeyou, E., Lews, S. et al. Scoping Review. In apping onicial guidelines and porcy documents and address the needs or worken who are dependent on drugs our ingrise permatal period. Sink: M. Kindty M. et al. 2022, Saving Lives, Improving Mothers' Care Core report: Lessons learned to inform attentity care from the UK and Ireland Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths and Morbidity 2018-2018.

^{5.} Adoption without consent - Study for the Policy Dept Citizen's Rights and Constitutional Affairs, European Parliament, 201

Bilson A. Fut ure Emotional Harm The Statistics, Univ. of Central Lancashire

Hidden Harm – facts?

- By accepting that not all drug use is incompatible with being a "good parent" (the inference being that most parents who use drugs will be bad parents), the report invokes a rationality that links (mostly) harmful drug use with (mostly) bad parenting
- 11 out of the 48 recommendations in Hidden Harm pertain specifically to the treatment of women who use drugs, pregnant women and mothers. None specifically target men, fathers, or fathers-to-be.
- Safeguarding = the 3 Ms
 MISUNDERSTOOD, MISREPRESENTED & MISUSED

Whittaker A et al, Governing Parental Drug Use in the UK: What's Hidden in "Hidden Harm?" Contemporary Drug Problems 2020, Vol. 47(3) 170-187

How is this effective drug treatment? The demonisation of medication maintenance Abstinence – where is the line? It is not working – because it does not work **Unique** aspects You cannot recover something you never had! Coercive control? Stripped motherhood

