

### Introduction to *Interact*

*Interact* is the Journal of the Trauma and Abuse Group (TAG) and is distributed free of charge to members and at low-cost to non-members. It is published twice a year and contains a range of articles on the subject of trauma, abuse, dissociation and attachment. It has a broad readership including counsellors, psychotherapists, survivors, partners and supporters, pastoral workers, clergy, health professionals, Rape Crisis centre workers and helpline staff – indeed anyone interested in supporting those recovering from neglect, trauma and abuse.

*Interact* is a unique publication in the field of trauma and abuse recovery in the UK and currently has a distribution of up to 500 copies per edition. Apart from TAG, it is read by a number of members of various organisations including The European Society for Trauma and Dissociation (ESTD), The Bowlby Centre, Ritual Abuse Information Network and Support (RAINS), The Pottergate Centre, The Clinic for Dissociative Studies, First Personal Plural (FPP), Partners of Dissociative Survivors (PODS) and The Survivors Trust (TST).

### What we are looking for

We welcome contributions from everyone involved in the field, regardless of qualifications, theoretical orientation or background. You do not need to be a clinician to contribute: we especially value first-hand accounts from survivors and their professional or personal allies.

The main criterion for articles is that they are understandable and relevant.

The aim of *Interact* is to inform and educate people about the prevalence of abuse, the importance of attachment, and the realities of recovery especially where dissociative disorders are involved.

### Length of articles

Articles are generally between 1000 and 3000 words, or up to 5000 words where agreed in advance. Longer pieces may be serialised and thus divided into two smaller parts. Shorter articles may be suitable for inclusion in the bi-monthly e-newsletter.

### Style

We particularly welcome articles which are *readable, accessible, interesting* and *relevant* to our broad readership.

We also welcome articles whose content is scholarly (where that content is written in an engaging, understandable style) and which is backed up by appropriate referencing. Where used, references should be accurate and supplied in the Harvard style. We do not generally publish academic research papers, although we would be happy to consider printing abstracts or applied reflections from research which you have undertaken, including weblinks to relevant websites.

Our readers represent a wide spectrum so please bear this in mind when writing. If in any doubt, please contact us for advice.

### Help available

We are always happy to help and advise with the writing and submission of your article and enquiries should be made to [editor@tag-uk.net](mailto:editor@tag-uk.net). If you have something valuable to say, but find writing daunting, then please still get in touch. Under certain circumstances we can provide a member of the Editorial team to interview you or ghost-write your article for you, under your guidance and instruction.

*Please never assume that your article will not be good enough to be considered – we can usually help and we value every contribution.*

We retain the right to sub-edit your manuscript for the sake of clarity and understanding, and to ensure uniformity of spelling, punctuation, grammar and 'house style', but changes will be agreed with you in advance.

## Topics and Examples

The best way to get a flavour for the kinds of article that we publish is to read our most recent editions. Examples of subjects covered are given below with reference to the September 2009 and the March 2010 editions, which are available from us as a PDF upon request.

We welcome:

1. **Theoretical papers aimed primarily at therapists, or articles containing guidance for effective therapeutic practice.** Examples would include:
  - a. Adah Sachs – *Infanticidal Attachment: Symbolic and Concrete*
  - b. Janina Fisher – *Self-Harm and Suicidality*
  - c. Sue Richardson – *Supervision of Work with Trauma and Dissociation: An Attachment-Based Perspective*
2. **Therapist or client/survivor reflections of their own experience, case studies from practice, or a discussion of issues either within therapy or in society at large.** Examples would include:
  - a. Pauline Andrew – What I Have Learned Through Working with DID
  - b. Carol B – Reflections on an Ongoing Therapeutic 'Relationship'
  - c. Melanie Goodwin – Attachment, Trauma and New Tights: Life with DID
3. **Survivor accounts. These may be descriptive or evocative in nature, or may be accounts of current life difficulties.** Examples would include:
  - a. Carolyn Spring – Some Memories of Mummy: Reflections on Attachment, Abuse, Dissociation
  - b. Carolyn Spring – Different, Normal, Surviving, Outraged: My Impressions from the Conference
4. **Partner or Supporter Contributions.** Examples would include:
  - a. Rob – Life as the Partner of a Dissociative Survivor
  - b. Rob – The Road Less Travelled - How To Support Your DID Partner
5. **General articles on issues pertaining to abuse, trauma, dissociation, attachment or therapy, at an accessible level suitable for both therapists and survivors.** Examples would include:
  - a. Rebecca Mitchell – It's Not You, It's Me: Sexual Abuse and the Legacy of False Responsibility
  - b. Marie Calvert – The Creative Art of Therapy

## Process

If possible please submit your article by email to [editor@tag-uk.net](mailto:editor@tag-uk.net), preferably as a Microsoft Word document (\*.doc or \*.docx), although written submissions will also be considered. We would prefer a brief biography, any pertinent background information, your contact details and where possible a photograph of yourself (\*.jpg or .png), but we will quite understand any wish to protect your privacy, as long as there is enough information to confirm provenance of the material.

We aim to provide initial feedback about suitability within one month of receipt. If accepted, we may not necessarily be able to publish your article in the next edition of *Interact*, but we may hold it over until a future edition.

You will be asked to sign a contributor permission form which will clarify, amongst other matters:

- in which publication your article will appear
- the name that you would like to appear as author, or whether you would like to be anonymous
- whether you have authority to print (for example, whether the article is subject to prior copyright or whether you have sought the appropriate permissions from clients where case studies are disclosed)
- whether you give permission for it to be made more widely available following publication, for example on the TAG website.

You will receive a proof copy of your article where possible before publication. You will be asked to check this for errors and to notify the Editor of any problems within a defined timescale.

We regret that as a charity we are unable to pay for submissions, but upon publication you will receive a complimentary copy of the edition in which your article appears, and further copies will be provided at cost where available. Where your article relates to a book that you have written or event at which you are speaking, we are usually happy to promote details of this in our e-newsletter.

Where an article is not suitable for publication in *Interact*, it may still be published in the TAG bi-monthly e-newsletter, and your permission will be sought for this.

We always welcome conference reports, training details, book reviews, poetry and shorter items (under 1000 words) for the e-newsletter.

**Artwork**

We also welcome contributions for artwork for the front cover. These should be supplied electronically (\*.jpg, \*.png or \*.tiff) and at a resolution of no lower than 600dpi for 21 x 14.5 cm (preferably higher). Similar permissions as above will be sought from you and the artwork may be cropped to size.

**Copy Dates**

The copy date for the Spring edition is 15 January, with an expected publication date of 15 March. The copy date for the Autumn edition is 15 August, with an expected publication date of 15 October.

**Contact**

For any queries or for submissions please email [editor@tag-uk.net](mailto:editor@tag-uk.net).