

***“Here the Rain Never Finishes”*: The history, consequences and rehabilitation following torture perpetrated by Western states.**

Western countries such as the US and the UK have been accused of employing physical and psychological torture on a variety of people. Newsworthy examples include the covert rendition program to secret CIA run black sites; Guantanamo Bay; Abu Ghraib, MI6 rendition of Libyan dissidents to Gadhafi, and the Iraqi Historic Allegations Team investigations of alleged British use of torture. Some of these have been investigated and accepted as torture while others are under active investigation and may be baseless. The presenters have worked with victims from all of these examples and will be drawing on their experience of the assessment and rehabilitation of alleged victims, as well as exploring of the role of accountability in recovery.

Many of the torture techniques are psychological, or involve no touch techniques. The distinction between psychological and physical torture is often a meaningless term, since they cause both mental and physical suffering and injury. It is debatable whether some of the techniques deployed constitute torture or even cruel and degrading practice.

Some of the most severe of the practices were perpetrated by psychologists and possibly psychiatrists. In the context of *The American Psychological Association* (APA) being accused of condoning torture the UKPTS has recently published a position paper on the use of various coercive interrogation techniques and the ESTSS has commissioned a working party to provide a similar paper.

This workshop seeks to provide an overview of the recent historical background of what the techniques are and the harm they cause, particularly during the so called “*War On Terror*”. It will include discussion on the establishment of a rehabilitation project for ex-Guantanamo Detainees and the current *American Civil Liberties Union* (ACLU) civil case against clinical psychologists allegedly engaged in torture in the CIA program. The background will form the basis of a discussion about how to address past abuse and protect against future harm, particularly in the so-called Post Truth Era.

Brock Chisholm
Polly Rossdale