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Presentation title: Canteen gossip: Domestic abuse double victimisation in the police force
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Domestic abuse within the police workforce has been exclusively analysed through the lens of police officers perpetrating the abuse, but what happens when police officers are victimised? When the line becomes blurred between crime fighter and victim? Do they feel comfortable reporting their victimisation to colleagues and/or supervisors? Or is the stigma of victimisation heightened due to their profession? This presentation will be focused on answering these questions by discussing the findings resulting from the analysis of 846 surveys applied to police officers and staff in an English Constabulary. The main general themes to be addressed are why many have chosen to not report their victimisation experience and the story of those who did report the adversities they faced. The heart-breaking responses from the survey’s open-ended sections evidence the sui generis difficulties police officers face when reporting their victimisation experience in their workplace as well as other added barriers emerging from police officers’ organisational procedures and professional identities.