

VIPSIG and TSIG Joint Annual Conference

A joint event between the volunteering and independent psychiatry special interest group ([VIPSIG](#)) and the transcultural special interest group ([TSIG](#))

Date: Thursday 4 December 2025, 9.15am-4.15pm

Venue: In-person only (this event will not be livestreamed and/or recorded) RCPsych London Headquarters, 21 Prescot Street, E1 8BB

Time	Session
8.45am – 9.15am	Delegate registration
9.15am	Welcome and introductions Dr Mostafa Shalaby, <i>Chair, Volunteering and International Psychiatrists Special Interest Group (VIPSIG)</i> Dr Saima Niaz, <i>Chair, Transcultural Special Interest Group (TSIG)</i>
Plenary 1 Chair: Dr Sophia Thomson, Co Chair Volunteering Working Group, World Psychiatry Association	
9.30am	Turning the World Upside Down – Lessons from developing the postgraduate Psychiatry programme in Zambia. Professor Subodh Dave, <i>Dean, RCPsych</i>
10.00am	Questions from the audience and discussion
10.15am – 10.35am	Morning refreshment break
Plenary 2 Chair: Dr Lachlan Fotheringham, Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust	
10.35am	Therapy Under the Bombs: Therapeutic Work at Times of War (Gaza) Dr Mustafa Alachakar, <i>Consultant psychiatrist and medical psychotherapist</i>
Chair: Dr Musa Sami	
11.00am	15 Years of War, 15 Years of Survival: A Conversation on Syria's Mental Health Crisis Dr Mostafa Shalaby, <i>Chair, VIPSIG</i> and Professor Nandini Chakraborty, <i>Consultant Psychiatrist, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust and Hon Professor, University of Leicester</i>
11.25am	Questions from the audience and discussion

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12.00pm – 1.00pm	Lunch
Plenary 3 Chair: Dr Saadia Alvi, <i>Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust</i>	
1.00pm	Enhancing our Power Dr Chinwe Obinwa
1.20pm	What is social and cultural psychiatry? Contrasts and shared spaces Professor Kamaldeep Bhui, <i>University of Oxford</i>
1.40pm	Questions from the audience and discussion
1.50pm- 2.00pm	Comfort break
Plenary 4 Chair: Dr Santosh Mudholkar, <i>West London NHS Trust</i>	
2.00pm	Presidential address Dr Lade Smith CBE, <i>President, RCPsych</i>
2.30pm	Forensic and Cultural Psychiatry: Recovery, Agency, and Healing Across Contexts Dr Hasanen Al-Taiar, <i>MChB FRCPsych SFHEA</i>
2.50pm – 3.15pm	Afternoon refreshment break
Plenary 5 Panel discussion Chair: Dr Fabida Aria and Dr Angela Misra	
3.15pm	Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Lily Read, <i>Chair of RCPsych SAS Committee</i> - Dr Peter Hughes, <i>NHS</i> - Dr Suhana Ahmed, <i>West London NHS Trust</i> - Dr Anis Ahmed, <i>Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist</i>
4.00pm	Closing remarks and reflections from the day Dr Mostafa Shalaby, <i>Chair, Volunteering and International Psychiatrists Special Interest Group (VIPSIG)</i> Dr Saima Niaz, <i>Chair, Transcultural Special Interest Group (TSIG)</i>
4.15pm	Conference end

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