**Train-The-Trainer Sessions**

**Psychosocial Skills**

*The following exercises are provided to act as a simulation of possible real life situations that criminal lawyers attending police interviews may find themselves.*

*The goal in carrying out these exercises is to apply the concepts we have discussed and encourage participants to engage in a reflexive mindset in their approach to this training.*

*Providing exercises which simulate real life situations will, hopefully, encourage you to retrospectively apply these concepts to your own personal, professional experiences.*

**CASE 1:**

You are requested to assist a detainee at the Police station. Upon entering the room, you find Mr B. You sense he is very tense and has a frightened look. When, after introducing yourself, you ask him “how are you?” he begins to cry disconsolately and reports that the police are hurting and begs you to take him out of there. When you start asking questions about what is happening, you have problems understanding his answers, he has an unclear speech about what happened: he i constantly changing the topic and he goes back and forward in time, which makes it difficult for you to clarify the facts. At that moment you even doubt his credibility because of his contradictions.

If you understand properly, he explains how during his transfer to the police station, where he was handcuffed, Police officers slapped him and threatened him saying "wait until you get to the Police station," "you will pay for this," "you will know." Once at the Police station, he was tied to a chair with a rope (he shows you the marks on his wrists that according to him were caused by the rope and the handcuffs during transfer). Apparently they continued beating him with the police baton and with their hands, he does not remember exactly where in his body, but he shows you wounded arms and back that can be compatible with a police baton. He also remembers humiliating comments in relation to his physical appearance and racist comments such as "go to your country" “you are all criminals”.

Questions:

1. **In the case scenario is when the lawyer asks “how are you” that Mr B. starts explaining the alleged ill-treatment. Do you believe you would have asked that first question?**
2. **How would you act when the person starts crying inconsolably?**
3. **Do you think you could be in front of a case of ill-treatment by Police officer?**
4. **What is the proceeding you should follow when receiving this information from your client?**

**CASE 2:**

You were asked to attend Mr S., arrested on suspicion of destruction of public property. Mr S. suffers from a mild form of schizophrenia. During the lawyer-client consultation, it becomes clear that Mr S. is alert and aware of the circumstances of the impugned events, and understands that he is at the police station answering a criminal charge. He tells you that he committed the offence because he was ordered to do so by someone. He seems to understand your advice to respond to police questions. Once in the interrogation room, Mr S. decides to remain silent. He tells the officer that you, his lawyer, had given him different advice, but he was certain that this was because you were secretly plotting against him, and wanted to send him to prison.

Questions:

1. **What factors make S. potentially vulnerable?**
2. **What are the risks that S. is facing at the given stage of the criminal proceedings because of his potential vulnerability?**
3. **How can I substantiate the argument concerning S.’s vulnerability?**
4. **What are the legal implications of S.’s potential vulnerability?**
5. **What action should I take as a lawyer to address/compensate for the risks associated with S.’s potential vulnerability?**
6. **From the psychosocial approach, what could you have done before interrogation to anticipate his reaction?**

**Case 3:**

Ms. A. is suspected of causing bodily harm to a passer-by on the street. She is attended by, you, the lawyer at the police station. During the lawyer-client consultation it becomes clear that Ms A. has a communication impairment. She talks incessantly with no pauses, jumps from one topic to another; her speech is at times unintelligible. You have difficulty catching A.’s attention. For the rest of the consultation, A. complains you about her various health problems and inability to find work. She also states that the police are lying, and plotting against her with her ex-partner, because they do not want her to have custody over her children.

Questions:

1. **Factors present to suggest that A. may be vulnerable?**
2. **What risks is A. facing?**
3. **How can the risks be substantiated?**
4. **Legal implications**
5. **What would you do next as A.’s lawyer?**