



## Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: April Newsletter

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### VAMHN Update – Coronavirus

Here at the network we have been adapting to the coronavirus in a number of ways including reworking our events to be virtually accessible and organising online workshops. Read on to find out more about these.

#### **New report: Supporting off-radar children and young people who are at risk of violence/abuse in their household**

We have now released this new survivor-led report which was coordinated by [Survivors' Voices](#), with the [Violence, Abuse and Mental Health Network](#) and [The McPin Foundation](#). It contains relevant possible actions to support children who are 'off-radar' (unknown to any statutory services) during and post pandemic 'lockdown' periods. Thank you to all those who participated in the consultation and shared information about the consultation with their networks. To read the full report: [click here](#) and please do share with your networks and contacts.

#### **COVID-19 resources**

We have also been collating a wide range of resources over the last month and uploading them to the COVID-19 Resource page on our website. Many of these have been sent to us by partner organisations and network members and have utility for several sectors. To view these resources [click here](#).



## VAMHN Opportunities

### Early Career Researcher Grant Writing Workshop

The VAMHN Early Career Researcher Virtual Proposal Workshops will aim to support junior researchers working in the field of domestic/sexual violence and mental health who are preparing applications to submit for funding. These workshops will be facilitated by two senior members of VAMHN and provide a supportive environment for ECRs to receive constructive feedback on their grant applications. The deadline is the 1st May. [Click here](#) for full details.

### VAMHN Webinar – sold out!

We will be holding a webinar on the 12<sup>th</sup> May at 10.15am-12pm on Understanding Violence, Abuse and Mental Health. Tickets are now sold out but if you didn't manage to one don't worry as we will be recording all presentations and uploading them to our website.

### Mental Elf blogging opportunities

The Mental Elf are looking for bloggers to cover the latest research on violence and abuse, trauma, and mental health. If you have mental health knowledge, critical appraisal skills and a knack for writing, they want to hear from you. If you are interested please contact [katherine.saunders@nationalelfservice.net](mailto:katherine.saunders@nationalelfservice.net).

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## ECR Bursary Award Winners

We recently closed our third round of VAMHN Early Career Researcher Bursary Awards and are pleased to announce our five winners below:

### Emilie Wildman @EmilieWildman

- Emilie is a PhD student at King's College London. Her project looks at investigating violence perpetrated by people living with severe mental health conditions against their informal carers.

### Tina Khanna

- Tina is a Dphil student at the University of Oxford. Her doctoral research aims to develop deeper understanding about risk and protective factors for depression among married girls who face domestic violence in India.

### Elaine Craig @LaneyCraig

- Elaine is a research assistant in mental health at Manchester Metropolitan University. Her research focuses on mental health, trauma and abuse.

#### **Kolia Bene**

- Kolia is an early career researcher at the University of Exeter and co-founder of Community Action to Inspire Hope – a support group for persons hearing voices. Her research looks at the intersection of arts and health.

#### **Gabrielle Beaudry** [@gab\\_beaudry](#).

- Gabrielle is a Dphil candidate at the University of Oxford. Her doctoral research focuses on the risk of violent offending in released prisoners.



## **Other Funding Opportunities**

- Research to support COVID-19 response in humanitarian settings
  - 🕒 Deadline 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)
- UKRI EPSRC Sandpit focused on Digital Technologies for Health and Care
  - 🕒 Deadline 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)
- ESRC Research Methods Development Grants 2020
  - Grant applications could potentially investigate technological abuse within relationships and the high prevalence of intimate partner abuse among young people.*
  - 🕒 Deadline for intention to submit 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Full proposal submission deadline 14<sup>th</sup> May. [Click here for full details](#)
- MARCH Network Plus Funding Call
  - 🕒 Deadline 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)
- MQ Fellows Award
  - Focus on young people's mental health. Targeted at early career researchers.*
  - 🕒 Deadline 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)
- eNurture Plus Funding Call
  - 🕒 Deadline 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)
- ESRC Centre's Competition
  - 🕒 1<sup>st</sup> Deadline October 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)



## Other Training, Events and Opportunities

*As you will all be aware, many upcoming events and training opportunities will now be cancelled. Below we have tried to highlight some opportunities to engage online. If know of an virtual event/workshop/training course please let us know at [vamhn@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:vamhn@kcl.ac.uk) so we can share through the network.*

**NVIVO** have produced an on-demand webinar on 'COVID-19 and doing virtual fieldwork' to support researchers who conduct face-to-face fieldwork and are now faced with the challenge of either delayed or re-inventing their methods. To watch the webinar [click here](#).

**Victim Focus** have organised a range of webinars and training courses on a range of topics including victim blaming, child sexual abuse, trauma and more. You can access their e-learning courses [here](#) and view their upcoming events [here](#).

**The Women and Equalities Committee** are issuing a call for evidence looking into how people with protected characteristics are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and the Government's response. To read more [click here](#).

**AVA** are running a free workshop on digital safeguarding for charities on both the 30<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> May. To book your place [click here](#). They are also running a webinar on 'supporting survivors' mental health during COVID-19' on the 29<sup>th</sup> April – [click here](#) to sign up.

**The National Housing Federation** are running a webinar on 'Domestic abuse-economic abuse and how we can identify and support victims' on the 19<sup>th</sup> May from 2-3pm. The webinar will hear from experts about economic abuse and how we can identify and support victims in housing association homes. To register [click here](#).



## Ongoing Research

**SMaRteN**, in partnership with Vitae, is conducting research into the impact of COVID-19 on the working lives of doctoral researchers and research staff. Their aim is to provide insights to enable the sector to better support early career researchers. The survey will be live for two weeks from Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. All doctoral students and early career researchers, usually resident in the UK or currently working / studying in the UK are welcome to participate. You can participate [here](#).

**The ApartTogether study** are looking at the impact of COVID-19 on migrants and refugees. They hope that the results of this study will be able to inform policy makers and practitioners to support Migrants and Refugees better, including ameliorating their current

life conditions and their access to health services. They are looking for participants to complete their survey which can be found [here](#).

**Ashley McCarthy** is recruiting participants for her MSc research. Her study aims to explore decision making, perceptions, and behaviours of mock jurors (you) in relation to intimate partner violence (IPV) cases among heterosexual vs same-sex couples. She is inviting anyone over the age of 18 to take her survey – full details and survey [here](#). For more information please contact Ashley at [u1968108@unimail.hud.ac.uk](mailto:u1968108@unimail.hud.ac.uk)



## Resources

**Supporting survivors during COVID-19: Guidance for Mental Health Professionals - AVA**  
AVA have published guidance giving key information and practical support for mental health professionals to support responses to domestic abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic. To read the resource [click here](#).

**Sowing the Seeds: Children’s experience of domestic abuse and criminality – Victim’s Commissioner**

This report explores the overlap between children’s experience of domestic abuse and children’s offending behaviour and makes recommendations for early intervention and consistent practice. To read the full report [click here](#).

**Ignorance Is Not Bliss: A U.K. Study of Sexual and Domestic Abuse Awareness on Campus, and Correlations With Confidence and Positive Action in a Bystander Program – Bovill et al, 2020**

This article reports on a U.K. research study encompassing two surveys which used evidence-based scales of awareness, confidence to intervene, and intervention opportunities and action regarding sexual and domestic abuse on campus. The study finds associations between active intervention and raised awareness that is not noted in passive or no intervention. To read the article published in *The Journal of Interpersonal Violence* [click here](#).

**#YouAreNotAlone Partner Pack – Home Office**

The Home Office have launched a #YouAreNotAlone domestic abuse campaign which aims to raise awareness that if anyone is at risk of, or experiencing, domestic abuse, they are still able leave and seek support. They have worked with key partners and charities to produce the attached partner pack. The pack currently contains social media assets, an email banner and online badge to show you are supporting the campaign, a poster and leaflet with support information, as well as additional brand posters, which you can print as required to display in windows and relevant environments.

For more useful resources and links, take a look at [our website here](#)

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## VAMHN Data Directory

We are currently in the process of developing an online Data Directory of quantitative data resources that include information on violence / abuse and mental health to help guide researchers, policy makers, practitioners, survivors / survivor organisations and the third sector toward useful resources available in the field. For this directory, we are interested in gathering information in a set format on three types of resource: 1) Datasets 2) Data Repositories 3) Aggregate / Published Statistics.

We are currently trialling our first version of the directory which you can view on an unpublished [link here](#). What we need from you is information on any UK datasets, data repositories and/or sources of aggregate / published statistics on violence / abuse and mental health that we can add to this Directory. If you would like to submit one to us, please do so by completing the template at the bottom of the Directory webpage [here](#), and emailing to Dr Jude Towers at [j.s.towers@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:j.s.towers@ljmu.ac.uk) by **1<sup>st</sup> August 2020**. Resource submissions should be either publicly available or available upon application.

Many thanks in advance for helping us develop this resource – we look forward to formally launching our new online Data Directory at the next VAMHN networking meeting in the autumn. For further information about the directory please email contact Dr Jude Towers at [j.s.towers@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:j.s.towers@ljmu.ac.uk)

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## Basecamp

Basecamp is a forum which you can use to connect with other members of the network. If you're looking for collaborators, sharing a survey or looking to connect with across different disciplines, feel free to post a message on the project page.

We currently have two pages – one for all members and one for early career researchers. We define an early career researcher as *“an individual who is within eight years of the award of their PhD or equivalent professional training, or an individual who is within six years of their first academic appointment”*. This includes independent and charity researchers. Please let us know if you are an early career researcher and would like to be added to this page as well as the main page.

**Please note** that by requesting an invitation to join our Basecamp page, your email address will automatically be shared with all other members of the Basecamp group. Additionally, Basecamp often daily update emails which some may find excessive – however you can easily adjust this in your account settings once you sign up. If you would like to join the VAMHN Basecamp page, please email [vamhn@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:vamhn@kcl.ac.uk) to

request an invitation

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## Useful Links

 VAMHN website: <https://www.vamhn.co.uk/>

 VAMHN twitter: [@VAMHN](https://twitter.com/VAMHN)

We are one of eight UKRI funded mental health networks. To find out more about the other seven, [click here](#)



**If you have any collaboration or funding opportunities, events or resources for our newsletter please contact us at [vamhn@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:vamhn@kcl.ac.uk)**