



## Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: June Newsletter

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### VAMHN Update

#### **VAMHN Webinar – Violence Against Women and Girls, Intersectionality and COVID-19**

On the 21<sup>st</sup> July from 11am-12.30pm we will be hosting our second VAMHN webinar: “*Violence Against Women and Girls, Intersectionality and COVID-19*”. We are pleased to be welcoming the following speakers:

- Baljit Banga (Imkaan) - The Impact of the Dual Pandemics: VAWG and COVID-19 on Black and Minoritised Women and Girls.
- Eleanor Lisney (Sisters of Frieda) - Disabled Women and the Impact of Covid-19.
- Akima Thomas (Women and Girls Network) - Creating Space for Change: Engaging with survivors for healing, weaving an intersectional perspective and a trauma informed approach from a resilience and resistance framework.
- Sumanta Roy (Imkaan) and Ravi Thiara (University of Warwick) - Providing Support to Black and Minoritised Women during the Pandemic.

As well as presenting, each speaker will be taking questions in a Q&A session. Places are limited. For full details and to reserve a place, [click here](#).

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

For many children and young people, home is not a place of safety but a place of risk. [Survivors' Voices](#), [McPin Foundation](#), and the Violence Abuse and Mental Health Network want to find practical ways to help identify and support children and young people at risk of violence and abuse.

Please consider taking part in our anonymous online survey if:

- You have experience of being a child or young person at risk of violence and abuse from someone in your household
- Or you work with children and young people at risk of violence and abuse, or both.
- You are physically safe and emotionally able to do so.

- You are aged 16 or older and live in the UK.

You will not be asked to provide information about your experiences of violence and abuse. The survey takes about 20 minutes to complete. Your responses will be anonymous and treated confidentially. The survey builds on our previous consultation on the same topic: you can find the report on our website [here](#).

To access the survey – and more detailed information – please go to [https://kclbs.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_831tV8UY8xXxIRP](https://kclbs.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_831tV8UY8xXxIRP)

### **Consultancy opportunity**

VAMHN are recruiting for a Survivor/Lived Experience Involvement Consultant to support the ongoing development of VAMHN's survivor/lived experience involvement strategy and activities, including through the development and strengthening of links with local and national survivor/service user led organisations, and helping to coordinate and facilitate the VAMHN Lived Experience Advisory Group. Full details and information about how to apply can be [found here](#). The deadline to apply is Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

### **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**

### **ECR Bursary Award Scheme**

Our next round of Early Career Researcher Bursary Awards is now open! The bursary aims to support junior researchers to attend training courses, research placements at institutions other than their own, and conferences. Bursaries can be used towards training course and/or conference fees, or for travel and accommodation to support attendance. This includes registration fees for virtual webinars and conferences.

These awards are open to early career researchers from both UK universities and third sector organisations. To find out more and to apply [click here](#).

### **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).



## Other Training, Events and Opportunities

**AVA** are offering a variety of training courses online as well as running a webinar series which invite specialist guest speakers. To keep updated and view their upcoming opportunities [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](#).

**Standing Together Against Domestic Violence** are now delivering a number of online training sessions over the next month. To find out more [click here](#). They also marked the launch of their Pathfinder Toolkit with a webinar which you can watch on Youtube [here](#) and access the Toolkit [here](#).

**The University of Sheffield** are running a webinar on 'Family and Domestic Violence and the Link to Complex Trauma' on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July from 11am-12.30pm. The webinar will look at the link between family and domestic violence and the intergenerational transmission of complex trauma. To register your attendance click [here](#).

**The Dutch Journal for Gender Studies** are issuing a call for papers on 'Researching Intimate Partner Violence: Gender, intersectionality and policy making'. The deadline for submission is 30<sup>th</sup> September. For full information [click here](#).

**The Violence Against Women and Girls Research Network** are running a webinar on 'The Emotional Cost of Ending Violence Against Women and Girls' on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July from 10.30-11.30am. To register your attendance [click here](#).

**The Journal of Business Ethics** have issued a call for papers on 'Intimate partner violence and business: Exploring the boundaries of ethical enquiry'. The revised deadline for submission is the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021. For full information [click here](#).

**The Institute For Public Health** are running a webinar on 2<sup>nd</sup> July from 3-4.30pm on 'COVID-19 and conflict-related sexual violence: relationships and implications'. To register your attendance [click here](#).



## Collaboration opportunities

**Dr Nadja Heym** (Nottingham Trent University) is leading a UKRI bid with a multi-disciplinary team which aims to assess the impact of COVID-19 and lockdown on the incidence of domestic violence and abuse and its effect on mental health (primarily children, but also parents) to implement, evaluate and upscale a dynamically co-created toolkit of online interventions. The team are looking for advisory board members for the project. Members would meet online monthly for the first 6 months and then quarterly for 12 months. This is a voluntary role. If you are interested or would like to find out more please email Dr Nadja Heym at [nadja.heym@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:nadja.heym@ntu.ac.uk).

The “**Gender and IoT**” (G-IoT) research project at University College London explores the impact of emerging technologies on victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. The group is part of the Violence, Abuse and Mental Health Network and is currently looking to interview representatives from the domestic abuse sector (broadly defined). If you have previous experience with and exposure to victims and survivors that have been, for example, stalked via smartphones, harassed via the Internet or coerced and controlled through other digital devices, the G-IoT team would be delighted to talk to you. Interviews would be conducted via online means such as Microsoft Teams or phone, are expected to last between 30-40min, and should help to provide the much-needed evidence-based to further improve research and practice on these evolving risks. If you would like to participate, please get in touch with Dr Leonie Tanczer ([l.tanczer@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:l.tanczer@ucl.ac.uk)).

**University of Sussex** is currently recruiting for participants for an anonymous survey. The study is about how Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) operate in England and Wales. People can take part if they are aged 18 or over and have participated in a DHR in England or Wales. This could be as a family member or a friend (of someone who was a subject of a DHR), in a professional capacity (as an advocate for family or friends, an independent chair, someone who commissioned a DHR, as a panel member, report writer, review panel member, or in some other way) or if you are a reader for, or member of, the national Quality Assurance Panel. For more details and to take the questionnaire, please go to: <https://bit.ly/2UdpSf8>.

**Jacopo Santambrogio** and colleagues are looking for people to speak with them at the EPA 2021 Symposium. They will be speaking on their research about intimate partner violence and mental health. If you would like to join them, please email Jacopo at [j.santambrogio@gmail.com](mailto:j.santambrogio@gmail.com).



## Community Spotlight

### Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA)



Since its inception in 2008, AAFDA have provided specialist advocacy to families bereaved by domestic homicide, or suicide after domestic abuse. Their unique service supports families through Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), Inquests, Mental Health Reviews and other inquiries. They also provide valuable peer support by offering residential events and (in more recent 'COVID19' times) video conference calls where families can meet and talk with others who have experienced similar loss. AAFDA are a centre of excellence for Domestic Homicide Reviews and provide CPD accredited training for DHR Chairs and Panel Members. They also act as a point of contact for any professional undertaking a DHR.

For more information about AAFDA see their links below:

**Website:** [www.aafda.org.uk](http://www.aafda.org.uk)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/AAFDAAdvocacyAfterFatalDomesticAbuse](https://www.facebook.com/AAFDAAdvocacyAfterFatalDomesticAbuse)

**Twitter:** @aafda6

**Fundraising:** [www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/aafda](http://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/aafda)



## Resources

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

### **What Happens When The internet of Things Becomes an Accomplice in Domestic Abuse? – Charlotte Webb**

This article provides a comprehensive review of how technology can be weaponised to perpetrate domestic abuse and discusses some of the available research in this area as well as the implications for legislation. To read the full article [click here](#).

### **Covid Life – I Am Public Mental Health**

Covid Life is a peer led project which aims to document individual and collective experiences of the coronavirus pandemic, asking the question “what happens to our mental health during a public health crisis?” Covid Life entries are fragments of lived experience, windows onto our own and others’ lives. To read more visit their website [here](#).

### **For Baby’s Sake Evaluation – Stefanou Foundation & King’s College London**

This is an independent evaluation of *For Baby’s Sake* - a programme for expectant parents who want to break the cycle of domestic abuse and give their babies the best start in life. The evaluation assessed the feasibility, acceptability and impact of *For Baby’s Sake* in two prototype sites in Hertfordshire and the London Boroughs of Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham from 2015-2019. The report highlights the positive feedback from mothers and fathers engaging in the programme, as well the *For Baby’s Sake* Practitioners and professionals from partner agencies. To read the full evaluation [click here](#).

## **Violence Against Women and Girls Data Collection During COVID-19 – UN Women and World Health Organisation**

This document summarises principles and recommendations to those planning to embark on data collection on the impact of COVID-19 on violence against women and girls (VAWG). It was informed by the needs and challenges identified by colleagues in regional and country offices and has benefited from their input. It responds to the difficulties of adhering to methodological, ethical and safety principles in the context of the physical distancing and staying at home measures imposed in many countries. To read the document [click here](#).

## **Impact of COVID-19 on domestic abuse services – Women's Aid**

This report looks at the changes in domestic abuse service provision during the pandemic, including impact on staffing, the accessibility of refuge services and the ability to support women and children during lockdown. To read the full report [click 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)**