



Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: October Newsletter

VAMHN Opportunities

VAMH Network Meeting

On Friday 30th October we ran our fourth VAMH Network Meeting. A huge thank you to everyone who joined and participated in our networking sessions. We also shared details about our current and upcoming VAMHN opportunities, ran a Q&A session about our current grant competition and heard from our keynote speaker Prof. Rachel Jewkes from the South African Medical Research Council. If you missed it you can watch the recording on our website [here](#).

Small Grant Competition

Our second plus projects funding call is now open. Grants are available for small projects up to £25k, on the theme of understanding violence, abuse, and mental health. We will commission research that aims to understand:

1. The common sources of harm in the interconnected systems encountered by victims and survivors of violence and abuse?
2. The pathways to experiencing – and/or using - violence and abuse, and their relationship with mental health problems?
3. Which factors are protective against violence, abuse, and mental health problems across the life course, disaggregated by gender, and which could be potential targets for interventions?

Grants can be used to deliver a targeted piece of research or to pump-prime larger projects. Applications are now open and close at **5pm on 11th December 2020**. Full details on how to apply, including the call specification and frequently asked questions, can be accessed from our website [here](#). Information about the projects funded through our first funding call, on the theme of measurement of violence, abuse, and mental health can be found [here](#).

ECR Bursary Award Scheme

Our next round of Early Career Researcher Bursary Awards closes soon! 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. The deadline is 4th November 2020. 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.



Other Training, Events and Opportunities

The Sexual Violence and Health Research Network are hosting their annual research day on 5th November. For full details click [here](#).

The Intergenerational Trauma Conference will take place virtually on the 19th and 20th January 2021. To get your ticket click [here](#).

UCLAN are hosting a webinar on 'Causal Conundrums: Criminal Law, Domestic Abuse and Suicidality' on 1st December from 4-5pm. To register your attendance click [here](#).

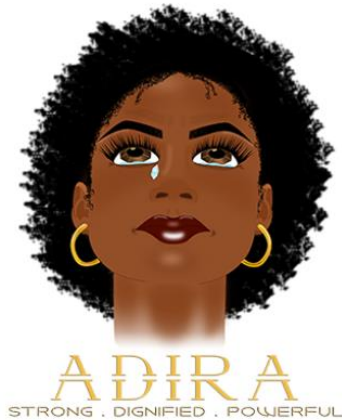
West Sussex County Council are running a webinar on Domestic Abuse and the LGBTQ+ Community on 4th November from 1-3pm. To register your attendance, click [here](#).

The Culture, Health and Wellbeing International Conference and Exchange will take place next year and ticket sales will open in January 2021. They have issued a call for abstracts for digital presentations, workshops performances and films. The call covers broad themes including Health inequalities and social determinants of health. To find out more click [here](#).

The European Conference on Domestic Violence is scheduled for the 13th-15th September in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Their call for papers is now open and closes on the 10th December. To find out more click [here](#).



Community Spotlight



ADIRA is a survivor led mental health and well-being organisation that supports black people with mental health issues. We put on yearly black mental health conferences, offer peer support to young black people between the ages of 18-25, offer one to one support and have a monthly black women's support group.

Their current projects include the Black Hair Care Project and the Adira and Partners Christmas Dinner Hamper Project – both of which you can find out more about [here](#).

To find out more visit their website here:

<https://www.adira.org.uk/>

Ongoing Research

UCL STEaPP, University of Queensland and QUT are calling for domestic violence sector workers in the UK and Australia to take part in a survey to assess the impact of Internet of Things (IoT) technology on survivors of domestic violence. Participants will be asked to share their own, or their organisations, thoughts, insights and practices of working with survivors of domestic and sexual violence and to consider whether the emergence of technology-facilitated abuse is affecting the ways in which women use technology to find information, support and safety. The survey should take 5 to 10 minutes to complete. For more information and the link to the survey click [here](#).

The Sexual Violence Priority Setting Partnership are working with the James Lind Alliance to set up a 'Priority Setting Partnership' in the area of unwanted sexual experiences. The Partnership brings together survivors and health and social care professionals with direct experience working with survivors, to identify important unanswered questions for future research. They are running a survey to ask survivors and professionals what the most important unanswered questions are that future research should answer on how to support survivors of unwanted sexual experiences. For more information and the link to the survey click [here](#).

The University of Oxford and our sister network Emerging Minds are running the Co-SPACE study exploring how families are coping during the pandemic and what parents can do to help support their children's mental health. If you are the parent or carer of a child who is in school year 0-11 (foundation/reception to the end of GCSEs) or P1 to S4 and you are living in the UK, you are eligible to take part in their survey. For full details and the link to their survey click [here](#).

Siofra Peeren at King's College London is looking for participants for a new study exploring maternity care professionals' experiences of working with women who have experienced sexual violence as adults

- Are you a maternity care professional (incl. student midwives) who is currently or has previously practiced in the UK?
- Can you spare one hour to take part in a one-to-one, online interview about working with women who have experienced sexual violence as adults?

Please contact siofra.peeren@kcl.ac.uk for more information about taking part. You do not need to have direct experience of working with women with these experiences.

Researchers at UCL are hoping to improve interventions for children and families who have experienced domestic violence and/or child maltreatment. [Their study](#) aims to find out what outcomes are most important to people accessing services and programmes. This study has been approved by the UCL Research Ethics Committee. They want to hear from you if you are:

- A parent who has suffered violence or abuse (including financial abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, or coercive control) from your partner during the lifetime of your child/ren,
- or you experienced violence or abuse as a child (this might include physical or sexual abuse, it also includes experience of abuse between parents/caregivers)
- and you're aged over 18 years

Participants will take part in an interview about their goals and priorities during and after the abuse. Participants will be compensated for their time and the team will discuss with you how best to carry out the interview (including what questions they will ask) so you feel as comfortable and safe as possible. Speaking to or meeting with a researcher to hear more about the study will not commit you to taking part. Deciding not to take part will not affect any services you receive. If now isn't the right time for you to take part but you might be interested later on in the year, please do get in touch to let them know. If you took part in their workshops, they can't interview you but we would really appreciate it if you could forward this invitation on to anyone you know who might like take part. For further information or if you have any questions, please contact Claire at c.powell@ucl.ac.uk or 07586 144250.



Resources

Study on the economic, social and human costs of trafficking in human beings within the EU – European Commission, 2020

This new report on the *Cost of Trafficking in Human Beings* led by the Violence and Society Centre, City, University of London, has just been published by the European Commission to mark European Anti-Trafficking Day, 18 October 2020. Trafficking of human beings in the EU disproportionately affects women and only three per cent of the total costs is spent on specialised support for victims. The study finds that the total costs associated with the

trafficking of women are almost three times greater than that for men. To read the report click [here](#).

Rape survivors and the criminal justice system – Victims Commissioner’s Office, 2020

This report explores the findings of a survey of nearly 500 survivors of rape, undertaken by the Victims’ Commissioner. It finds that just 14% believed they would receive justice by reporting the crime to the police. To read the report click [here](#).

Recording and sharing information about domestic violence/abuse in the health service: Research report and good practice recommendations for healthcare – Dheensa, 2020

This project used multiple methods to form national recommendations on good practice around recording domestic violence/abuse in different healthcare settings and sharing information within the health service and between health and other agencies/services. The aim of the recommendations is to benefit and reduce harm to victims/survivors and children. To download the full report click [here](#).

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

VAMHN Data Directory

The VAMHN Data Directory has now launched! This new resource indexes UK datasets, data repositories, and aggregate/published statistics about violence, abuse, and mental health, providing you with information about these resources and how to access them. Do check it out [here](#).

We’ll be continually adding to the data directory, so if you know of a resource that we haven’t yet indexed, please tell us about it 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. Please note that the resource should be either publicly available or available upon application.

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 to request an invitation

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