



Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: August Newsletter



VAMHN Opportunities

VAMH Online Network Meeting:

We will be hosting our next online network meeting on the 20th October from 10am-11.30am.

During this event, we will be welcoming the following brilliant speakers:

- Lindsay Kelland - Rhodes University
- Lisa Ward - Lived experience consultant and VAMHN LEAG coordinator
- Laura Fischer - Traumascaples
- Sullivan Holderbach - Traumascaples

Each speaker will give a 20-minute presentation followed by a panel discussion at the end, where you will have the opportunity to ask our speakers any questions.

To register your attendance, click [here](#).

This webinar will be recorded and uploaded to our website afterwards. To have a look at our previous webinar recordings click [here](#).

Early Career Researcher Bursary Award Scheme – awardees and next round

Our next round of Early Career Researcher Bursary Awards is open, and we have increased the amount we are awarding! We now have awards of up to £350 available 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 2022. To find out more and to apply [click here](#). To read what our previous ECR bursary winners have done with their awards click [here](#).



Other Training, Events and Opportunities

The Connect Centre is running a conference on “Effective Interventions to Prevent and Reduce Harm and Abuse” on 5th October 2022 from 9.15am-4.30pm. The conference will take place at the Preston Marriott Hotel, Preston. For more details and to book your place click [here](#). Booking ends on the 30th September.

The International Public Policy Observatory are running a webinar on “Ending violence against women and girls” on the 14th September from 10-11.30am. To register your attendance, click [here](#).

The Violence, Health, and Society Consortium (VISION) is hosting its free, first annual conference on 20 September 2022 at City, University of London, in the Northampton Suite from 10 am – 3 pm. Registration and coffee begins at 9:30 am and lunch and breaks will be provided. To register your attendance click [here](#).

The Women and Mental Health Special Interest Group are hosting an online conference on the 14th October (timings TBC) on “Systemic Misogyny and VAWG: international perspectives”. To register your attendance click [here](#).

FGEN (Newcastle upon Tyne) are hosting a webinar on “Supporting trans and nonbinary inclusion in GBV service provision” on the 28th September from 10.30-3.30pm. To register your attendance click [here](#).

SMARTen are hosting a range of events – both online and in-person - commencing Monday 31st October 2022, as part of their final project showcase. This will culminate in a conference on the 4th November 2022 at the Science Gallery in London. To register your interest now, to be kept in the loop about updates and opportunities to contribute, and for a notification when bookings open click [here](#).



Ongoing Research

Not My Shame is a VAMHN funded artistic engagement project. They are recruiting black women and women who identify as PoC/Global Majority, who are survivors of gender-based abuse or violence, and identify as LGBTQ+. The Not My Shame Project is a collaboration between researchers, artists and the [Maya Centre](#). It focuses on empowering women survivors of violence and abuse through creative writing and poetry workshops. The project consists of six workshops which are run and delivered by [Andreena Leanne](#) (lived experience speaker, writing workshop facilitator and poet), alongside one of the Maya Centre’s Black Women’s Therapists. The workshops are held over six consecutive weeks, in-person at the Maya Centre in Islington. The aim of the workshops is to focus on 6 key elements of wellbeing each week and encourage taking an active role in one’s self-care. Survivors will be encouraged to free write something (this could be a poem, short story, list, letter to self, etc.) and no prior writing experience is necessary as the idea is to provide a safe space for

survivors to be able to freely express themselves without judgement. Participants will receive £225 for attending all 6 workshops (plus travel expenses up to £8 per workshop). If you are interested in taking part, please contact womenshub@mayacentre.org.uk.

The Young but Wise project team at King's College London are running a survey to investigate whether wisdom can buffer stress, anxiety and depression in young people. You are eligible to take part if you are aged 16-25 and living in the UK. The survey takes around 25 minutes to complete, and there will be another follow-up questionnaire to complete 3 months after the first time point. Participants who complete the questionnaire will be entered into a raffle for one of two £20 Amazon vouchers. To find out more and to complete the survey click [here](#).



Job Opportunities

NAPAC are hiring a Support Service Development Officer to cleanse and analyse their data to provide insights, assess impact, and inform decision making supporting the development of our unique and vital services. Payment value is £15,000 for 500 hours (£30 an hour) between October 2022 and March 2023. For more details and to apply click [here](#).



Resources

Working with Afghan Sanctuary Seekers: A guide for mental health professionals – Jannesari et al, 2022

This co-produced guide for mental health professionals working with Afghan sanctuary seekers with three Afghan organisations aims to encourage cultural humility in mental health practitioners and help them in initiating mental health conversations and understanding different conceptions of mental health. The project team are currently developing training to go alongside the guide. To read the full guide click [here](#).

UK victim-survivor experiences of intimate partner spiritual abuse and religious coercive control and implications for practice – Mulvihill et al, 2022

This study extends existing research on coercive control within an intimate relationship by exploring how some perpetrators use spiritual abuse as part of their control repertoire and how others harness belief and doctrine to exercise a totalising 'religious coercive control' over their victims. To read the full paper published in *Criminology & Criminal Justice* click [here](#).

The psychological subtype of intimate partner violence and its effect on mental health: a systematic review with meta-analyses – Dokkedahl et al 2022

This review examines the association between psychological violence and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and anxiety, while comparing the specific subtypes of psychological violence. To read the full paper published in *Systematic Reviews* click [here](#).

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

VAMHN Forum

Whether you want to share a survey, find collaborators for a bid or discuss a paper you've written, the VAMHN forum is a space for you to do that. To sign up to the forum and start connecting to other VAMHN members click [here](#). Full instructions on how to use the forum can be found on the homepage.

VAMHN Directories

The VAMHN has developed three active directories available on our website for our members to access. To access our directories masterpage click [here](#).

1. VAMHN Data Directory

This 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. To access this resource, click [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 [hereabout:blank](#), and emailing to Dr Jude Towers at Towersj@edgehill.ac.uk. Please note that the resource should be either publicly available or available upon application. You do not need a password to access the data directory.

2. VAMHN Expert Directory

Our Expert Directory collates details of Network member expertise – e.g., academics, policy-makers, practitioners, those with lived experience, etc. This resource can be used to help members find experts to help with bids or research or more general questions and queries. To access the Expert Directory webpage click [here](#). **The password to the webpage is UKRInetwork1!**

3. VAMHN Network Directory

This directory is for organisations and networks – again, academic, policy-making, practitioner, lived experience, third sector, voluntary sector, etc. These may be formal or informal; organisations, discussion forums, mailing lists; etc. The resource can be used to help members find relevant networks to join, to signpost others to and potentially to help with bids or research or more general questions and queries. To access the Network Directory webpage click [here](#). **The password to the webpage is UKRInetwork1!**

Both the expert and network directory webpages include instructions on how to use them effectively, and also include a video introduction from our network co-investigator Dr Jude Towers.

If you would like to add your details either the expert or network directory, you can download the template form from our website at the web-links above and send to Dr Jude Towers at Towersj@edgehill.ac.uk.

We hope you find the directories useful! If you would like to refer these directories onto colleagues who are not currently members of the VAMHN, please kindly ask them to join the network [here](#) and contact us at vamhn@kcl.ac.uk to request the password.

4. VAMHN Blog Directory

Our blog directory which contains blogs by people with lived and living experience of violence, abuse and mental health. The blogs are about diverse forms of domestic and sexual violence, diverse types of mental health and different experiences of services e.g. health, policing, research etc. To access the blog directory, click [here](#). The password to the webpage is *UKRInetwork1!* For any and all enquiries about this directory please contact Dr Jude Towers at Towersj@edgehill.ac.uk.

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