

**Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: January Newsletter**

**VAMHN Opportunities**

**Funding call – VAMHN Arts Competition**

The VAMHN is delighted to launch our Arts funding competition as part of our fourth-year programme of activities. VAMHN’s focus for this fourth year of grant competition funding will be on collaborations that engage the wider public around violence, abuse and mental health. We are looking for innovative artistic projects with the potential for high-quality and original outputs, which generate new critical perspectives and inspire further discussion around violence, abuse, and mental health. We are especially hoping to see lived experience views included and valued. The deadline for applications is the **4th March 2022 at 5pm.**

We are delighted to be collaborating with [Riverside Studios](https://riversidestudios.co.uk/) to run this grant call. Riverside Trust brings artists, audiences and their community together to open minds and change lives through the collaborative nature of the arts*.* More details on this collaboration will be available to you on our website.

Helping you find collaborators for this funding call:

We recognise that people with lived experience, artists, and researchers are not always well linked. To help with this all parties will be able to advertise ideas for research or requests/offers of involvement using our LERA (Lived Experience, Researcher and Artist) forum, which can be accessed [here](https://leraforum.wixsite.com/my-site/forum-1). **We already have people looking for collaborators on the forum so you can start connecting right away!**

Guidance on expectations around lived experience involvement

On the 21st January, The Network’s Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) hosted a webinar outlining their experiences of involvement in research and their views on good practice. We've have uploaded the audio recording of this webinar which you can access [here](https://www.vamhn.co.uk/leag-arts-competition-webinar.html).

For full details on the grant call click [here](https://www.vamhn.co.uk/vamhn-arts-funding-competition.html).

**Non-academic career pathways for researchers - ECR Lunchtime Seminar Series**Our ECR Lunchtime Seminar Series is back! We’re running our next webinar on the 23rd February from 12-1.30pm. This one is all about non-academic career pathways for researchers.

We will be joined by the following speakers:

* Dr Eloise Crush, Research Director, Positive Group
* Dr Dan Robotham, Deputy Research Director, The McPin Foundation
* Dr Stephanie Smith, Senior Advisor, Centre for Evidence and Implementation
* Dr Minh Dang, Executive Director, Survivor Alliance

Each speaker will be sharing their advice and expertise on alternative career pathways for researchers, including transitioning from a PhD or postdoc into to the private sector and opportunities within the charity sector. There will also be an opportunity to ask any questions during a Q+A panel session.

To register your attendance, click [here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/non-academic-career-pathways-for-researchers-ecr-lunchtime-seminar-series-tickets-255979219737).

To view the other webinar recordings we have available from this series click [here](https://www.vamhn.co.uk/ecr-lunchtime-seminar-series.html).

**The VAMHN’s on Instagram!**

We’ve just joined Instagram and we’re hoping to use it more in the coming months to share network and external opportunities. If you’d like to give us a follow our handle is [ukri\_vamhn](https://www.instagram.com/ukri_vamhn/).

**Early Career Researcher Bursary Award Scheme – awardees and new round**

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**. The deadline is 25th April 2022. To find out more and to apply [click here.](https://www.vamhn.co.uk/ecr-bursaries.html) To read what our previous ECR bursary winners have done with their awards click [here](http://www.vamhn.co.uk/blog/category/vamhn-bursary-award-blogs).

**Other Training, Events and Opportunities**

**LSBU** are running a webinar on “Better Education for Boys & Young Men in Tackling Violence Against Women & Girls” on Wednesday 2 February from 4pm – 5.30pm. To register your attendance please click [here](https://lsbu-better-education-boys-young-men.eventbrite.co.uk).

**Survivors’ Voices** are running a Writing Retreat on the 5th February from 10am-3.30pm. The retreat will offer a safe and supportive space to hear survivors’ voices and use creative writing exercises to discover and develop your own, facilitated by survivor author [Jane Chevous](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsurvivorsvoices.us5.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dff2798e52e2d66936820e9420%26id%3D209de1d090%26e%3De79b548a5a&data=04%7C01%7Cvamhn%40kcl.ac.uk%7C5952724d356047c316b908d9dc4513ee%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637783011520574167%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=MAor7pc%2FyD6oGf1CmDbDUNYxmq0OIQx2M41Jm7SDj00%3D&reserved=0) and blogger [Nicole Caroli](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsurvivorsvoices.us5.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dff2798e52e2d66936820e9420%26id%3Dd035aaf5c1%26e%3De79b548a5a&data=04%7C01%7Cvamhn%40kcl.ac.uk%7C5952724d356047c316b908d9dc4513ee%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637783011520574167%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=z8bOyfT%2Bm%2Bz1XASrUDrFl9hqwPel5vakh3vBa9CDxQg%3D&reserved=0). To find out more and to register click [here](https://survivorsvoices.org/events/your-story-your-voice-survivors-writing-retreat/).

**Heath and Education at Manchester Metropolitan University** are running a webinar on Domestic Abuse Safeguarding During Covid-19 Challenges and Opportunities on the 1st March from 9.30am-1pm. To sign up click[**here**](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/domestic-abuse-safeguarding-during-covid-19-challenges-and-opportunities-tickets-244385281957)**.**

**The Mental Health Research Incubator** are running an awards programme, with prizes of up to £1000 available for mental health research projects and individual researchers. The awards are designed to support and promote early career researchers in mental health. They are looking to recognise and reward innovative impactful research, in four categories – collaborative involvement of patients and public, research in underserved areas, innovation and early impact. For full details click [here](https://mentalhealthresearch.org.uk/call-for-nominations-mhr-incubator-awards/). Nominations will close on 4th March.

**Safe Lives** are running a training course on “Engaging with those who harm”. The course will provide a proactive framework for agencies and professionals to confidently, professionally and safely establish direct working relationships with DVA perpetrators without compromising robust safeguarding and support for victims and children. The next course will take place on 22nd and 23rd March from 9.30-4pm. To find out more click [here](https://safelives.org.uk/training/engaging-those-who-harm).

**Job, Education and Voluntary Opportunities**

**The Pilgrim Trust** launched its five year Young Women and Mental Health programme last year, and we are now looking to appoint an evaluator to develop and deliver an impact framework for the programme, and also a facilitator to develop peer learning support working with the cohorts of grantees.  The deadline for submissions is the 21st February.

For more information and submission details to the Evaluator post click [here](https://thepilgrimtrust.sharepoint.com/Grant%20Giving/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2FGrant%20Giving%2FSocial%20Change%202021%20%2D%20Mental%20Health%2FYoung%20women%27s%20mental%20health%2FEvaluationBriefYWMHfinal%2Epdf&parent=%2FGrant%20Giving%2FSocial%20Change%202021%20%2D%20Mental%20Health%2FYoung%20women%27s%20mental%20health&p=true&wdLOR=c147D730C%2DDFDA%2D48EF%2DBDC0%2D61E77648AFDA).

For more information and submission details to the Facilitator post click [here](https://thepilgrimtrust.sharepoint.com/Grant%20Giving/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2FGrant%20Giving%2FSocial%20Change%202021%20%2D%20Mental%20Health%2FYoung%20women%27s%20mental%20health%2FFacilitatorBriefYWMHfinal%2Epdf&parent=%2FGrant%20Giving%2FSocial%20Change%202021%20%2D%20Mental%20Health%2FYoung%20women%27s%20mental%20health&p=true&wdLOR=c83D528E9%2D3094%2D48AB%2DBDAC%2DEFD3DC5AA508).

**Ongoing Research**

**Danai Chavendera**, a BSc student at King’s College London and is seeking participants for a study in association with the VAMHN. You are eligible to take part if

* You are over the age of 18
* You are a violence and abuse researcher
* You are interested in taking part in a remote interview investigating ways of improving the emotional safety and coping mechanisms of people researching violence and abuse.

For more information and to take part please contact danai.chavendera@kcl.ac.uk

**Standing Together and Macmillan Cancer Support** want to improve services and support for people who have been affected by both cancer and domestic abuse. They would like to hear from you if you are 18+ and

* You have experienced domestic abuse from a partner/family member and you have cancer, or have had cancer

OR

* You have experienced domestic abuse from a partner/family member who has cancer, or has had cancer.

If you would like to share your voice, they welcome your input in their online anonymous survey. You will also have the option to sign up to an interview at the end of the survey to talk about your experiences in more depth. If you do not want to do this survey, but you do want to be interviewed, email e.hepworth@standingtogether.org or click [here](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ETi_RlK_NU25qR_h7S5bYE3lfdiszsdHl6VAuQFaWWlUQzkwQ1JBTkE5SUZBRUhRRkI5WFZBUjc1WC4u) and tell them your name and contact information. *All contact information will be stored in line with GDPR.* To complete the survey, click [here](https://sduob.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/cancerda).

**Researchers at UCL, The University of Melbourne and the Queensland University of Technology** are inviting individuals working in the field of domestic violence, social work, counselling, health, law, justice, policing and housing to participate in their survey on the state of tech abuse. To complete the survey click [here](https://opinio.ucl.ac.uk/s?s=66851).

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**Resources**

**Violence and Women’s Mental Health Series –** *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology Journal & VAMHN, 2021*

The network has linked up with the Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology Journal to coordinate a state-of the-art series of invited reviews and original papers. So far three papers have been published as part of the series with more to come. To read all papers click [here](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flink.springer.com%2Fcollections%2Fbbgadjifji&data=04%7C01%7Cvamhn%40kcl.ac.uk%7C2a5981e9b14a45bada3a08d93181334d%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637595253257152685%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=7V1FIaXp9lHGAyWjm3QsQ2wxHASxENcYMWu4hJyXUMs%3D&reserved=0).

**#DeserveToBeHeard Campaign Reports** *- Women’s Aid*

Women’s Aid has published two new reports as part of their [#DeserveToBeHeard](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdeservetobeheard.womensaid.org.uk%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cvamhn%40kcl.ac.uk%7C4710312b1a1f4636b08608d9b8e2b8d1%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637744107379186636%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Tuc0AdLYZr5uydeVxHygteNqXmO2NWd31ZJiwzyGXxM%3D&reserved=0) campaign, highlighting the devastating and long-lasting impact of domestic abuse on the mental health of survivors and their children.

* [Mental health and domestic abuse: A review of the literature](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.womensaid.org.uk%2Fevidence-hub%2Fresearch-and-publications%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cvamhn%40kcl.ac.uk%7C4710312b1a1f4636b08608d9b8e2b8d1%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637744107379196629%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=fX42ZGV6doP6zX4EzwFB2DjoQoezmLS4dhjcLi5nEBc%3D&reserved=0): by Women’s Aid
* [Reframing the Links](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.womensaid.org.uk%2Fevidence-hub%2Fresearch-and-publications%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cvamhn%40kcl.ac.uk%7C4710312b1a1f4636b08608d9b8e2b8d1%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637744107379206625%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=peofW3SpMi%2FnrVsT2xKrbB%2B8%2BcbbNt9ZO8tFfbyEq2I%3D&reserved=0): Black and minoritised women, domestic violence and abuse, and mental health - A Review of the Literature. – by Ravi Thiara and Christine Harrison, University of Warwick

For a summary of some of the key findings, read their blog “Survivors deserve to be heard: The reality of the barriers to mental health support” [here](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.womensaid.org.uk%2Fsurvivors-deserve-to-be-heard-the-reality-of-the-barriers-to-mental-health-support%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cvamhn%40kcl.ac.uk%7C4710312b1a1f4636b08608d9b8e2b8d1%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637744107379206625%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=zp0h0f0%2FSQNy%2FN1XQpn6SCXutGWoV2UiWGY38o4qUwY%3D&reserved=0).

These reports discuss:

* the barriers facing domestic abuse survivors in accessing mental health support,
* the impact of domestic abuse and intersecting forms of oppression on survivors’ mental health,
* and the work of specialist domestic abuse services in meeting mental health needs.

For more information about the Deserve To Be Heard campaign, go to: [https://deservetobeheard.womensaid.org.uk/](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdeservetobeheard.womensaid.org.uk%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cvamhn%40kcl.ac.uk%7C4710312b1a1f4636b08608d9b8e2b8d1%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637744107379216621%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=JnrSY9Mw46nFQQ5uyPzOOf9saGBuxZGTU3cf6naN%2Fto%3D&reserved=0)

**Inclusive Holistic Care for Migrant Victims of sexual violence (INHeRE) –** *ICRH Belgium*

This webpage hosts a number of useful resources for Professionals working with MAR victims of SV. This includes a Safe reporting framework, a free online course of sexual violence and migration and more. To access the webpage click [here](https://www.icrhb.org/en/projects/inclusive-holistic-care-for-migrant-victims-of-sexual-violence-inhere).

*For more useful resources and links, take a look at* *our website here*

**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](http://www.vamhn.co.uk/directories.html).

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 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. You do not need a password to access the data directory.

1. **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](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.vamhn.co.uk%2Fexpert-directory.html&data=04%7C01%7Cvamhn%40kcl.ac.uk%7Ca698467a69994c7b1d3608d93faa0150%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637610821666076220%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=7i15Fcr0PZl%2Bz4LWqeGwy8mxFxq6cEVgikE47ufXHVk%3D&reserved=0).**The password to the webpage is UKRInetwork1!**

1. **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](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.vamhn.co.uk%2Fnetwork-directory.html&data=04%7C01%7Cvamhn%40kcl.ac.uk%7Ca698467a69994c7b1d3608d93faa0150%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637610821666086211%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=gPOPvWPmVZ%2FtS2Hy4S3BkI0VNwOneADfYfdNpIeMC2g%3D&reserved=0).**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 [j.s.towers@ljmu.ac.uk](http://about:blank/).

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](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.vamhn.co.uk%2Fjoin-the-network.html&data=04%7C01%7Cvamhn%40kcl.ac.uk%7Ca698467a69994c7b1d3608d93faa0150%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637610821666096207%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=CSqhbzIFkiWOdWpxFoDCCCRlK73ldG1qKXnLM1XM4lg%3D&reserved=0) and contact us at vamhn@kcl.ac.uk to request the password.

**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

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**