



Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: July Newsletter



VAMHN Update

Small Grant Competition Launch

We are delighted to launch our second plus projects funding call. 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](#).

Violence Against Women and Girls, Intersectionality and COVID-19 - #VAMHNwebinar

Yesterday we hosted our second VAMHN webinar: “*Violence Against Women and Girls, Intersectionality and COVID-19*”. A huge thank you to our incredible speakers and to everyone who attended. We have now uploaded the webinar recording to our website along with other resources which you can access [here](#).

VAMHN Written evidence submitted to the Public Bill Committee for the Domestic Abuse Bill

On the 4th June 2020, the Public Bill Committee met to conduct a line-by-line reading of the Domestic Abuse Bill. The network submitted written evidence and recommendations for the consideration of the Committee with regards to the bill. A

huge thank you to the 91 network members and organisations for attaching their signatures to this letter. Key recommendations included action to address the under-provision of services for victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse, clearer recognition of the mental health impacts of domestic abuse, improved measurement of domestic abuse and greater recognition of technology-enabled abuse. To read our evidence submission [click here](#).

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

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 7th August 2020.

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.



Other Funding Opportunities

- SVRI Research Grant
 - 🕒 Deadline 15th September 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)
 - Triumph Network Plus Funding Call
 - 🕒 Deadline 31st July 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)
 - Loneliness and Social Isolation Network Plus Funding Call
 - 🕒 Deadline 2nd October 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)
 - Closing the Gap Network Plus Funding Call
 - 🕒 Deadline 30th October 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)
 - eNurture Network Plus Funding Call
 - 🕒 Deadline 30th September 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)
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Other Training, Events and Opportunities

The Institute of Mental Health are running a series of “Surviving by storytelling workshops” from 28th July – 20th August. These workshops involve eight professional poets sharing how they use creative writing as part of their practice to support personal growth and recovery with workshop participants. Each writer will deliver a one-hour workshop and then lead a conversation around how it could be used as part of personal or professional practice. To find out more [click here.](#)

The European Conference on Domestic Violence are issuing a call for papers for their fourth conference in Slovenia on 13th-15th September 2021. To find out more and for submission details [click here.](#)

The 27th International Symposium on Controversies in Psychiatry are conducting their conference virtually between 28th August – 11th September 2020. For more details and to register [click here.](#)

The Resource and Support Hub are running a webinar on “Abusing Power: Exploring root causes and issues for safeguarding - power, privilege, gender and intersectionality” on 11th August at 11am. To register your attendance, [click here.](#)

The American Psychological Association are issuing a call for papers on “Stigma and COVID-19”. The journal particularly welcomes qualitative or quantitative papers looking at stigma associated with the virus. For full details [click here.](#)

The Sexual Violence and Health Research Network are issuing a call for abstracts for their Sexual Violence and Health Research Day on 5th November. The deadline for submission is 4th September. For full details please contact sylvia.mckelvie@nhs.net.

The Confederation of European Probation have a number of webinar recordings available on their website about a range of criminal justice topics including sexual abuse. To see more [click here](#).

The VAWG Research Network are running a webinar on 23rd July from 10-11am on “COVID-19 and Frontline VAWG Support Services for Victim-Survivors”. To register [click here](#).



Ongoing Research

H.O.P.E, DRIVE & Domestic Abuse Research Network are running a survey looking at Increasing safety for those experiencing family and intimate relationship harm within black and minority ethnic communities, by responding to those who harm. The survey closes on the 25th July and results will be shared on their website at www.hopetraining.co.uk . To complete the survey [click here](#).

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).

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>.



Resources

Draft Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance Framework – Home Office

The Home Office have released this draft guidance for the Domestic Abuse Bill. The Bill recently had its first reading in the House of Lords. To read the full guidance click [here](#) and to following the journey of the bill click [here](#).

Disclosure, reporting and help seeking among child survivors of violence: a cross-country analysis – Pereira et al, 2020

This study explores the rarely studied prevalence and dynamics around disclosure, reporting and help-seeking behaviours of children who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence. To read the full article published in *BMC Public Health* in full [click here](#).

Social isolation and the risk of child abuse during and after the coronavirus pandemic – NSPCC

This briefing summarises the risks to children's safety due to the conditions created by the COVID-19 pandemic. To download the briefing on the NSPCC website [click here](#).

A systematic review of short and medium-term mental health outcomes in young people following sexual assault – MacGregor et al, 2019

This systematic review aimed to describe mental health outcomes following sexual assault in young people. To read the full article in the *Journal of Adolescent Mental Health* [click here](#).

The association between neighbourhood characteristics and physical victimisation in men and women with mental disorders – Bhavsar et al, 2020

This study examines neighbourhood effects on physical victimisation towards people using mental health services. The authors conclude that neighbourhood factors influencing safety, as well as individual characteristics including gender, may be relevant to understanding pathways to physical victimisation towards people with mental illness. To read the full open access article [click here](#).

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

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 by **1st 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

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