



## Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: March Newsletter

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### COVID-19 update

The COVID-19 outbreak is causing huge disruption to everyone's daily lives, and we recognise that it will be having a particular impact on people who are experiencing, or have previously experienced, violence, abuse, and mental health problems. Please see the Safe Lives [briefing](#), which sets out some of the key issues for victims of domestic violence – and if you have resources you would like us to share, please be in touch with [vamhn@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:vamhn@kcl.ac.uk)

Below are some resources that you may find useful.

- [Mental Health and Psychosocial Considerations During COVID-19 Outbreak](#) – World Health Organisation
- [Coronavirus and your wellbeing](#) – Mind Charity
- [Creative isolation](#) – MARCH Network
- Women's Aid [Live Chat](#) and [Survivor Handbook](#)
- [Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Violence against Women and Girls](#) - UK Aid, The Department for International Development

Additionally, UCL has launched a study into the psychological and social effects of COVID-19 in the UK. The study is open to all adults in the UK and involves answering a 15-minute online survey and then a 10 minute follow up survey once a week whilst social isolation measures are in place. To find out more and to participate [click here](#).

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the network meeting scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup>. We will be moving other planned events online and will share information about this as it becomes available.

Now more than ever you may be looking for ways to connect with people working on violence abuse and mental health. Our Base Camp forum provides an opportunity to do just that - we'll be sending round an invitation shortly.

## 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We are currently trialling our first version of the directory which you can view on an unpublished [link here](#).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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## VAMHN Opportunities

### Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology Journal Series

We have decided to extend the deadline for expressions of interest to contribute to VAMHN SPPE Journal series. [The Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology Journal](#) has invited the VAMHN to contribute a series of invited reviews, original papers and commentaries on the theme of violence, abuse and women's mental health.

If you would be interested in contributing to the series, please email [vamhn@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:vamhn@kcl.ac.uk) by **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April** with a) confirmation of whether you will submit an original paper or a review b) a brief abstract.

We expect an emphasis on domestic/sexual violence, but other forms of violence do remain in scope. Please be advised that depending on the number of requests/submissions we receive we may have to make a thematic selection so cannot guarantee that your submission will be included in the final publication.

## 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).

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## VAMHN Funding Opportunities

### VAMHN Early Career Researcher Bursary Awards:

If you are an early career researcher who has attended or plans to attend a training course or conference relevant to domestic/sexual violence and mental health, you may be eligible for a VAMHN Bursary of up to £250. Bursaries can be used towards training course and/or conference fees, or for travel and accommodation to support attendance.

To find out if you are eligible and to apply [click here](#).



Applications close on the **3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020**. We kindly encourage PhD supervisors and NGOs to share this opportunity with their students and early career researchers.

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## Other Funding Opportunities

- Nuffield Foundation Strategic Fund
  - 🕒 Next deadline 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020. [Click here for guidance](#) and [here to apply](#). Applicants may also want to apply for seed corn funding in the first instance – [click here](#)
- UKRI EPSRC Sandpit focused on Digital Technologies for Health and Care
  - 🕒 Deadline 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020. [Click here for full details](#).
- ESRC Research Methods Development Grants 2020
  - Grant applications could potentially investigate technological abuse within relationships and the high prevalence of intimate partner abuse among young people.*
  - 🕒 Deadline for intention to submit 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Full proposal submission deadline 14<sup>th</sup> May. [Click here for full details](#)
- MARCH Network Plus Funding Call
  - 🕒 Deadline 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020. [Click here for full details](#).

- MQ Fellows Award  
*Focus on young people's mental health. Targeted at early career researchers.*  
 Deadline 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)
  - eNurture Plus Funding Call  
 Deadline 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)
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## Other Training, Events and Opportunities

*As you will all be aware, many upcoming events and training opportunities will now be cancelled. Below we have tried to highlight some opportunities to engage online. If know of an virtual event/workshop/training course please let us know at [vamhn@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:vamhn@kcl.ac.uk) so we can share through the network.*

**AVA** run a series of e-learning courses on a range of topics including domestic abuse, sexual abuse, substance abuse and mental health. To find out more [click here](#).

**The World Health Organisation** have launched a mentor programme called MENTOR-VIP on violence and injury prevention. The programme aims to enable skill development through the exchange of experience. For full details and to apply [click here](#).

**The Journal of Gender Based Violence** have issued a call for papers for “The European Conference on Domestic Violence 2019 Special Edition: Digital Technologies and Gender Based Violence: Mechanisms for oppression, activism and recovery”. They are looking for abstracts of no more than 500 words to be submitted to Dr Christine Barter ([Cabarter@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:Cabarter@uclan.ac.uk)) by 1<sup>st</sup> April. For full details see the attached PDF.

**The Anti-Trafficking Review** are issuing a call for papers for a special issue themed “Trafficking in Minors”. They invite a range of submissions including full-length conceptual, research-based, or case study focused thematic papers or shorter, blog-style pieces connected to the theme that focuses on practical issues arising from service provision and advocacy. The deadline for submissions is 1<sup>st</sup> June. Full details [available here](#).

**The Journal for Business and Ethics** are issuing a call for papers on Intimate partner violence and business: Exploring the boundaries of ethical enquiry. For full details of the call please see the attached word document.

**NIHR CRN, McPin and MQ** are sponsoring an award on ‘Transforming Mental Health Research Service User and Carer Involvement in Mental Health Research’. The award celebrates research studies with excellent service user and carer involvement. The awards will recognise the achievements of study teams who actively seek to involve carers and service users at each stage of the research process. It will also commend service users and carers who are making

a difference to mental health research. Two awards will be available each receiving a £200 voucher and a service user and carer involvement plaque. To apply for the award and for full details [click here](#).

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## Fundraising

**Losing Grace** is a short film that explored the mental health impact of abuse and trauma. They are currently crowd sourcing in order to raise the funds to complete the film. To find out more and to donate [click here](#). Additionally if you are aware of any funding opportunities that you would like to pass onto the filmmakers, please email Athena at [a.mandis@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:a.mandis@qmul.ac.uk) to let her know.

**AVA** (Against Violence and Abuse) have launched their AVIVA Crowdfunding Campaign, aiming to raise funds to create a trauma informed digital tool that provides practical support that recognises past abuse but gives women hope for the future. It differs from existing online support as it will be trauma informed and recognises the abuse they have experienced. This is truly innovative as it is co-designed by women with lived experience, ensuring it addresses the issues they face. AVA are aiming to raise £5000 to further develop this tool from a prototype. To find out more [click here](#).

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## Job and Education Opportunities

**Coventry University** are recruiting a clinician with an interest in sexual violence research to join the [MESEARCH project's](#) Data Monitoring and Ethics Committee. The safety, rights and well-being of the study participants are paramount and the role of the three-member DMEC is to monitor study data and make recommendations to the study advisory on whether there are any ethical or safety reasons why the MESARCH studies should not continue. They are welcoming clinicians from any area/discipline to join the meetings which are held annually, can be attended remotely and are arranged/facilitated by the research team at Coventry University. If you would like to discuss this opportunity, please get in touch with Lorna O'Doherty: [lorna.odoherty@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:lorna.odoherty@coventry.ac.uk)

**The University of Edinburgh** are offering a fully-funded PhD studentship starting in September to work on the follow-up of Young Carers (3-wave longitudinal study in South Africa) and investigate the impact of government-level interventions on the link between adverse childhood experiences and adult mental health. This is an advanced quantitative methods scholarship so candidates must be wanting to engage with advanced quantitative methods. This scholarship is available as a 1+3 or +3 and open to EU and UK candidates. Candidates will be supervised by Franziska Meinck and Aja Murray in the Department of Psychology. Deadline is 30<sup>th</sup> March. [Full details available here](#).

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## Resources

### **Effective design and implementation elements in interventions to prevent violence against women and girls – Jewkes et al, 2020**

This evidence brief outlines the effective design and implementation elements in interventions to prevent violence against women and girls emanating from the UKAID-funded, What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls programme, a six-year, £25-million investment in VAWG prevention. To read the full report [click here](#).

### **Not just collateral damage: The hidden impact of domestic abuse on children – Emma James X Barnardo's, 2020**

This report from Barnardo's provides a series of key recommendations for the government regarding the strengthening of the Domestic Abuse Bill with reference to the impact of domestic abuse on children. Additionally, it provides a comprehensive overview of the hidden impacts of domestic abuse on young people. To read the full report [click here](#).

### **Sexual Safety for Women in In-Patient Mental Health Care Contexts – McGarry et al, 2020**

This online resource aims to explore the concept of Sexual Safety from the perspective of women who have accessed mental services. It provides an informative introduction to further learning in the subject area. To access the online resource [click here](#).

### **Differences in adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and quality of physical and mental health between transgender and cisgender sexual minorities. – Schnarrs et al, 2019**

This article explores the difference in the prevalence of ACEs in sexual and gender minorities. They found that transgender participants reported emotional abuse, physical neglect and emotional neglect more frequently compared to cisgender and LGB individuals. To read the full article in the *Journal of Psychiatric Research* [click here](#).

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

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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)**

