



Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: March Newsletter



VAMHN Opportunities

VAMH Online Network Meeting

Our next network meeting webinar will take place on the 27th April from 10am-12pm. The network meeting will be run by our Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG). The LEAG brings together individuals with lived experience to explore the intersect between violence and abuse and mental health, and the impacts of this on individual experiences. Most recently LEAG conversations have explored the impact of a medicalised diagnosis, and the wider impacts this has on an individual's life. In this session, members of the group will explore what this has meant to them.

10:00 - 10:05 - Welcome

10:05 - 10:55 - Keynote speech from Georgie Getley (Surviving Economic Abuse) and Q+A

10:55 - 11:10 - Comfort break

11:10 - 11:40 - VAMHN: The impact of a mental health diagnosis on those who have experienced violence and abuse

11:40 - 12:00 - Questions and close

To get your free ticket sign up [here](#).

Early Career Researcher Bursary Award Scheme

Our next round of Early Career Researcher Bursary Awards is 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](#). To read what our previous ECR bursary winners have done with their awards click [here](#).



Other Training, Events and Opportunities

The Homicide Abuse Learning Together (HALT) project are hosting their end of project conference in Manchester on the 28th April 2022 from 10am-3.45pm. This free conference will include talks, films, poetry, workshops and a roundtable discussion. For full information and to book your place click [here](#).

The Tavistock Institute of Human Relations are running a webinar on “Lived Experience in the sector: How do we better enable a ‘We’?”. The webinar will take place on the 5th April from 12-1.30pm. to register your attendance click [here](#).

MQ have launched their MQ Fellows Award for 2022. This year’s theme is ‘Gone too soon’ which aligns with our next thematic focus that supports research into premature mortality, namely suicide and comorbidities. If you are:

- An early career researcher (Post PhD) whose work relates to suicide, comorbidities between physical and mental health or whose work otherwise relates to the premature mortality of people with mental illness
- In need of funding and other forms of support (Mentoring etc) for your work
- Looking for a career boost with a prestigious fellowship

For full details click [here](#). The deadline for expressions of interest is the 29th April.

The Wellcome Trust has partnered with Social Finance to launch the Data Prize in Mental Health in South Africa and the UK. Focusing on depression and anxiety in young people, they are bringing together multidisciplinary teams led from South Africa and the UK to find out what works to prevent, treat and manage these mental health conditions. The application process will open in April and selected teams will receive funding to explore existing datasets and be supported to develop impactful digital tools to enable further research. Open to any discipline that uses evidence in rigorous and transparent ways, the prize is not limited to people from psychology, psychiatry and neuroscience backgrounds. The process will involve:

- Team matchmaking to assist formation of multi-disciplinary teams
- Discovery phase - ten teams are funded £40,000 to analyze existing data to answer their research question
- Prototyping phase – five teams receive a further £100,000 funding to develop a tool for mental health research
- Sustainability phase: £500,000 will be allocated across three winning teams to develop their prototype

To find out more about the prize and register your interest sign up to their [mailing list](#).

UKRI are running a funding opportunity to allow applicants to partner with the police to tackle violence against women and girls. The funding call aims to establish new or grow

existing multi-agency partnerships and network and exchange knowledge with partners. The funding can be used to co-design activities to address violence against women and girls (VAWG). The deadline for applications is the 3rd May. To find out more click [here](#).



Job, Education and Voluntary Opportunities



Ongoing Research

Gilda Spaducci at King's College London is running a study on service delivery for survivors of sexual violence. The study seeks to

- a) understand healthcare professionals' experiences of inquiring and responding to disclosures of sexual violence in women who are racially and/or ethnically minoritised.
- a) identify the barriers and facilitators that healthcare professionals experience in providing support to minoritised women who are survivors of sexual violence.
- a) work together with professionals and service users to co-create recommendations for clinical practice and co-design an educational resource for professionals.

If you are a front-line professional working in a mental health or substance use service from the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust or Change Grow Live, then you are eligible to participate in a 1-1 interview to discuss your experiences of inquiring and responding to sexual violence in minoritised service users. For full details click [here](#) or get in touch with Gilda at gilda.2.spaducci@kcl.ac.uk.



Resources

Bringing the voice of lived experience to mental health and violence research - *Saffron, Bianca, and Alysha*

In 2021 the VAMHN funded a project as part of its [understanding](#) stream which was led by Dr Rachel Latham at King's College London. The project was about "Understanding the impact of micro- and macro-level violence during adolescence on mental health at the transition to adulthood". The study examined how adolescents' experiences of violence and neighbourhood disorder (e.g., vandalism and muggings) affects their mental health as they move into adulthood. Saffron, Bianca and Alysha are the peer researchers who worked on the project and have written an insightful blog on what their experiences were like as experts by experience who were integral to the running of the project. This blog highlights the importance of centring the voices of people with lived experience in research. To read the full blog click [here](#).

The Domestic Abuse Report: the Annual Audit 2022 – Women's Aid

This report from Women's Aid looks at the work of domestic services in England and the experiences of women who use them. It also contains some information about the initial impact of the new statutory duty on local authorities to commission safe accommodation for domestic abuse survivors in their area. To read the full report click [here](#). You can also read a blog about their findings [here](#).

Improving the mental health of women intimate partner violence survivors: Findings from a realist review of psychosocial interventions – Paphitis et al, 2022

This paper looks at ways to improve the mental health of female IPV survivors by extracting evidence from 60 reviews and triangulated in expert consultations. Findings suggest that psychosocial interventions to improve the mental health of women survivors of IPV have the greatest impact when they take a holistic view of the problem and provide individualised and trauma-informed support. To read the full paper published in PLOS ONE click [here](#).

Roadmap Evaluation Briefing Paper – The Connect Centre

The Connect Centre for International Research on Interpersonal Violence and Harm has published this briefing paper for survivors of domestic abuse produced from the evaluation of the Roadmap Programme for system change. It reports key messages from the evaluation for domestic abuse services and for those who use them. The report may be of interest to survivor groups and organisations working with domestic abuse survivors that you have contact with. It may also be of interest to practitioners and service developers working in the field of domestic abuse. To read the full report click [here](#).

VAMHN 2021 Report

We're now in our fourth year at the VAMHN. We've grown to over 1,100 members and over 2,500 twitter followers. To have a look back at all the things we did last year, have a read of our 2021 report here. We'd like to say a huge thank you to all our members for engaging with us over the last year, and we're looking forward to providing many more exciting opportunities in 2022. You can read the report on our website [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 [here](#), 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.

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