



## Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: May Newsletter

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### VAMHN Opportunities

#### **The Lancet Psychiatry Commission on intimate partner violence and mental health: advancing mental health services, research, and policy**

We have partnered with The Lancet Psychiatry to develop a Commission on intimate partner violence and mental health. The authors are a group of internationally renowned experts in IPV and mental health, including those with personal experience. The Commission provides a comprehensive state-of-the-art review of IPV and mental health and provides a roadmap to advancing mental health services, research, and policy. For more information and to read the Commission click [here](#).

#### **New blog directory**

We have now launched our new blog directory which contains blogs by people with lived and living experience of violence, abuse and mental health. The blogs will be about diverse forms of domestic and sexual violence, diverse types of mental health and different experiences of services e.g. health, policing, research etc. So far, we have one blog available on “Intimate image abuse as a form of honour-based abuse”.

To access the blog directory (and our other three directories) 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](mailto:Towersj@edgehill.ac.uk)

#### **VAMH Online Network Meeting**

On 27th April 2022 we ran a network meeting hosted by our Lived Experience Coordinator, Lisa Ward. We welcomed our keynote speaker Georgie Getley from Surviving Economic Abuse (not recorded) and heard from three of our Lived Experience Advisory Group members about their experience with medical diagnosis and trauma. To watch the recording, and access additional resources from our speakers click [here](#).

#### **Funded research reports**

Over the past three years, we have been able to fund a total of 12 research projects around violence, abuse and mental health. Projects are divided into three broad themes: measurement, understanding and interventions. Some of these projects have now finished

and we are able to share their findings with you. So far we have three reports available to read:

1. “What difference does it make? An intersectional framework to measure mental health harms in women and men associated with different thresholds of violence and abuse: a systematic review and meta-analysis” – PI: Nadia Mantovani, St George’s University of London. **Read the report [here](#).**
2. “PaRental intimate partner viOLence and abuse: measurement of the risk of Exposing Children and the menTal health impact: PROTECT study” – PI: Ruth McGovern, Newcastle University. **Read the report [here](#).**
3. “Understanding the impact of micro- and macro-level violence during adolescence on mental health at the transition to adulthood” – PI: Rachel Latham, King’s College London. **Read the report [here](#).**

To see the details of all of the projects we have funded so far, click [here](#).

### **Early Career Researcher 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**. The deadline is 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Sexual Violence Priority Setting Partnership** is running a webinar on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June from 1-2.30pm on “The Top 10 Priorities for Sexual Violence and Abuse Research”. To register your attendance click [here](#).

**The Connect Centre** have issued a call for abstracts for their upcoming conference on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 on new research or case studies drawn from practice on *Effective Interventions to Prevent and Reduce Harm and Abuse*. UK and international contributions are welcome. The deadline for abstract submission is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022. You can submit your abstract via the online form [here](#). Please contact Dr Nicola Farrelly [NFarrelly@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:NFarrelly@uclan.ac.uk) or Dr Kelly Bracewell [KBracewell1@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:KBracewell1@uclan.ac.uk) if you require additional information.

**AVA** have released new dates for their range of online courses for service managers and practitioners. You can access them [here](#).

**The Havens** are hosting its second conference on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2022, with the theme being “Trauma-informed practices / services in support of those affected by sexual violence” (working title). They would like to invite the submission of abstracts for this conference. For more details on how to submit, contact [kch-tr.havensconference@nhs.net](mailto:kch-tr.havensconference@nhs.net).

**The Centre for Police Research and Learning** are hosting a one-day conference on Violence Against Women and Girls looking specifically at Domestic Abuse and Rape and Serious Sexual violence (RASSO) based offences. The conference takes place on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022 at the Open University campus in Milton Keynes between 10am-4pm. This event is free of charge. For more information on how to attend contact Dr Anna Hopkins at [anna.hopkins@open.ac.uk](mailto:anna.hopkins@open.ac.uk)

**ShiVAR** are running an event on “Interpreters, Health & Social care professionals and Gender based violence” on the 7<sup>th</sup> June from 1.30-3pm. They invite professionals who work with interpreters and victims of gender-based violence /domestic violence and abuse to attend and participate in the discussion. For more information and to sign up click [here](#).



## 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](mailto:gilda.2.spaducci@kcl.ac.uk).

The second branch of this study seeks to explore the mental health and/or substance use needs, experiences and expectations of women who are racially and/or ethnically minoritised.

You are eligible to participate in a 1-1 interview if you:

1. Have experienced sexual violence at any age
2. Self-identify as female
3. Self-identify as racially and/or ethnically minoritised
4. Are over 18
5. Have accessed or currently accessing mental health and/or substance use services in adulthood
6. Can provide informed consent

For full details click [here](#) or get in touch with Gilda at [gilda.2.spaducci@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:gilda.2.spaducci@kcl.ac.uk)

**AVA (Against Violence & Abuse) is working with Manchester Metropolitan University** to recruit South Asian women for sensitive 1-1 interviews as part of their research project exploring South Asian women's experiences of alcohol and/or drug use where substances have led to difficulties or problems in their lives. The aim of the study is to improve service provision for South Asian women.

For the purpose of this study, AVA is looking to recruit 10 women from South Asian backgrounds who identify as having/had a problematic relationship with alcohol to take part in interviews over the summer (there is no deadline for interview application).

- The interviews can take from May throughout the summer, either online or over the phone and will last between 40 minutes to 1 hour.
- All interview participants will remain anonymous, confidentiality upheld, and data collected will be held in accordance with [Manchester Metropolitan's GDPR Policy](#).
- Interviews will be carried out by female researchers and accessibility needs/costs can be covered.
- Participants can opt out at any point in the process.
- Participants will receive a £20 voucher for taking part.
- Once someone has shown interest, their name and contact details will be passed on to the researcher from the university who will follow up and arrange the interviews.

Please contact [ella.sinclair@avaproject.org.uk](mailto:ella.sinclair@avaproject.org.uk) if you require any further information, would like to take part, or are an organisation that is interested in working with us to recruit participants.

**Safelives** has opened a survey to capture professional perspectives on perpetrator data collection. You can access the survey [here](#). Additionally, they are looking to conduct interviews with key professionals regarding current data collection and also gather perspectives on a nationally recognised dataset. They want to hear from a cross-section of different organisations and individuals from across the country including expert partner organisations, experts in practice, frontline services, commissioners and policy makers. These interviews will take approximately 30 minutes. For more information about taking part in the interviews please contact Jennifer at [jennifer.dunn@safelives.org.uk](mailto:jennifer.dunn@safelives.org.uk).

**The UKPRP** are issuing a call for evidence on the impact of specialised services. They are interested in hearing about any services or interventions which have been provided specifically to people who have experienced domestic and/or sexual violence or abuse. They are looking for formal evaluations of whether, after completing the intervention or leaving the service, there was an impact on victim/survivors' safety, in particular the type, frequency and severity of violence experienced, as well as wellbeing and empowerment. Please send or direct them to formal evaluations:

- Of any type of service or intervention aimed specifically at women and/or men who have experienced any form of domestic and/or sexual violence and abuse
- Conducted in the UK
- With data collected at at least two time-points (i.e., before and after the service use), **and/or** compared to a group that did not receive the service
- Which includes measurement of one or more of the following:
  - Safety (e.g., type/severity/frequency of violence and/or abuse, feeling safer)
  - Empowerment (e.g., feelings of empowerment/self-confidence)

- Wellbeing (e.g., physical health, stress, anxiety, quality of life, isolation)

For more information on the project and to contact them with information, please email Sophie at [Sophie.r.carlisle@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:Sophie.r.carlisle@kcl.ac.uk). By 10<sup>th</sup> June.



## Resources

### **The Lancet Psychiatry Commission on intimate partner violence and mental health: advancing mental health services, research, and policy**

We have partnered with The Lancet Psychiatry to develop a Commission on intimate partner violence and mental health. The authors are a group of internationally renowned experts in IPV and mental health, including those with personal experience. The Commission provides a comprehensive state-of-the-art review of IPV and mental health and provides a roadmap to advancing mental health services, research, and policy. For more information and to read the Commission click [here](#).

### **Confidential support to prevent child sexual abuse: A review of the first 12 months of live chat on the Stop It Now! UK and Ireland helpline – Naldrett et al, 2022**

This report from the Lucy Faithfull Foundation reviews the addition of the online live chat service to the Stop It Now! UK and Ireland helpline. This is a confidential service available to anyone with concerns about child sexual abuse, including adults worried about their own or someone else's sexual thoughts, feelings or behaviour towards children. The report outlines the reasoning behind the development of the live chat function, along with important aspects of the implementation process. To read the report click [here](#).

### **Benefits and tips for running a lived experience group for research - *The Loneliness & Social Isolation in Mental Health Research Network Co-Production Group***

This resource highlights the importance of lived experience involvement in research and outlines tips on how to successfully run a co-production group. The resource is written by the co-production group from the [UKRI The Loneliness & Social Isolation in Mental Health Network](#). You can read it [here](#).

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

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## 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.

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:vamhn@kcl.ac.uk) to request the password.

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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)**