



## Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: May Newsletter

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### VAMHN Update

#### **VAMHN Webinar - #UnderstandingVAMHN**

On 12<sup>th</sup> May we hosted our first VAMHN webinar on *understanding violence, abuse and mental health*. We were delighted to welcome four incredible speakers; Prof Joanna Bourke (Birkbeck, University of London), Nicole Jacobs (Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales), Akiko Hart (CEO, National Survivor User Network) and Laura Fischer (artist, activist and researcher). Thank you so much to everyone who attended. You can watch the recording of the full webinar, as well as access additional resources from our speakers [here](#).

We will be running more webinars in the coming months and look forward to updating you with details through our newsletter and on twitter @VAMHN.

#### **Supporting off-radar children and young people who are at risk of violence/abuse in their household**

We have released this new survivor-led report which was coordinated by [Survivors' Voices](#), with the [Violence, Abuse and Mental Health Network](#) and [The McPin Foundation](#). It contains recommendations on supporting children who are 'off-radar' (unknown to any statutory services) and at risk of household violence and abuse during and post pandemic 'lockdown' periods. Thank you to all those who participated in and shared information about the consultation. To read the interim report: [click here](#) and please do share with your networks and contacts.

#### **COVID-19 resources**

We have 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 are relevant to several sectors. To view these resources [click here](#). [To contribute resources, email vamhn@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:vamhn@kcl.ac.uk)



## VAMHN Opportunities

### ECR Bursary Award Scheme

Our next round of Early Career Researcher Bursary Awards is now open! The deadline to apply is 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020. 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 knowledge about these topics, 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).



## Other Funding Opportunities

- MARCH Network Plus Funding Call
  - 🕒 Deadline 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)
- eNurture Plus Funding Call
  - 🕒 Deadline 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)
- ESRC Centre's Competition
  - 🕒 1<sup>st</sup> Deadline October 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)



## 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.*

**Shantona Women's & Family Centre** are running an online workshop on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June from 10.30am-12pm focused on helping practitioners identify barriers South Asian women and families may experience in relation to domestic abuse. To register your attendance, [click here](#).

**Alpha Vesta CIC** are running a webinar on the "Impact of Domestic Abuse in the Workplace" on the 4<sup>th</sup> June from 10.30am-12pm. The workshop will explore the impact of domestic abuse on survivors, work colleagues and employers and will look at what can be done within the workplaces to promote a culture of understanding around domestic abuse. To register your attendance [click here](#).

**The Women's Equality Party Hackney** are running an online event on "The Dual Pandemic: Preventing & Responding to Domestic Abuse in Lockdown" on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June from 7-8pm. The event will feature a panel discussion with representatives from SISTAH SPACE and the Woman's Trust. [Click here](#) for full details.

**University College London** is hosting the digital "Calling Time on Sexual Misconduct" conference on the 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> June. The conference will explore best-practice prevention to address sexual misconduct in higher education. To find out more [click here](#).

**Children in Scotland** are running a webinar on "Gender & tech abuse: explore online gender identities, risks, relationships" on 24<sup>th</sup> June from 10.30am to 12pm. This training webinar will explore how gender and technology impact on children and young people's lives. To register [click here](#).

**AVA** are offering a variety of training courses online as well as running a webinar series which invite specialist guest speakers. To keep updated and view their upcoming opportunities [click here](#).

**NVIVO** have produced an on-demand webinar on 'COVID-19 and doing virtual fieldwork' to support researchers who conduct face-to-face fieldwork and are now faced with the challenge of either delayed or re-inventing their methods. To watch the webinar [click here](#).

**Victim Focus** have organised a range of webinars and training courses on a range of topics including victim blaming, child sexual abuse, trauma and more. You can access their e-learning courses [here](#) and view their upcoming events [here](#).

**The Women and Equalities Committee** are issuing a call for evidence looking into how people with protected characteristics are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and the Government's response. To read more [click here](#).



## Ongoing Research

**Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health** are seeking eligible papers for a systematic review. As part of a review of global literature regarding the effectiveness of psychosocial support interventions for populations affected by forced migration, they are contacting researchers and practitioners in the areas of MHPSS (mental health and psychosocial support) and forced migration to seek studies that might be eligible to include. They are looking for any program evaluation reports of psychosocial support activities aimed to protect or promote psychosocial wellbeing and/or prevent mental disorder for populations that have experienced forced migration for any reason and in any country setting. Eligible evaluations can utilize any type of study design (does not need to be an RCT) and must include a psychosocial outcome, which can be evaluated either qualitatively or quantitatively. They request any articles, specifically grey literature or unpublished reports that may not be in the published work that they are coming across in their first round of reviewing. To share any suggestions of studies that might be eligible for this review with them, please email [GIZPSSReview2020@gmail.com](mailto:GIZPSSReview2020@gmail.com) by May 31, 2020.

**Kirsty Ramsden** (PhD student at The University of Essex) is conducting research on exploring the potential of using nature and the outdoors to support the recovery of survivors of domestic violence. She is interested in learning about existing support services available for survivors of domestic violence both from staff who work in the sector and survivors of domestic violence.

- If you work in the domestic violence sector and are interested in sharing your views via an online survey please [click here](#).
- If you have experienced domestic violence and are interested in sharing your views via an online survey please [click here](#).

**The ApartTogether study** are looking at the impact of COVID-19 on migrants and refugees. They hope that the results of this study will be able to inform policy makers and practitioners to support Migrants and Refugees better, including ameliorating their current life conditions and their access to health services. They are looking for participants to complete their survey which can be found [here](#).

**Ashley McCarthy** is recruiting participants for her MSc research. Her study aims to explore decision making, perceptions, and behaviours of mock jurors (you) in relation to intimate partner violence (IPV) cases among heterosexual vs same-sex couples. She is inviting anyone over the age of 18 to take her survey – full details and survey [here](#). For more information please contact Ashley at [u1968108@unimail.hud.ac.uk](mailto:u1968108@unimail.hud.ac.uk)



## Resources

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

## **Domestic Violence and Abuse Webinar – NHS England**

Last week the NHSE/I's Perinatal Mental Health Programme Team facilitated a webinar to support the sharing of resources and approaches for responding to domestic violence and abuse (and associated safeguarding) concerns in perinatal women in the current context. The webinar is aimed at specialist perinatal mental health professionals; however, the content may be of interest / relevance to clinicians in other teams such as maternity, adult and children and young people's mental health services. The webinar and recording materials are published on the [FutureNHS Collaboration platform](#). For access please contact [england.mhldaincidentresponse@nhs.net](mailto:england.mhldaincidentresponse@nhs.net).

## **COVID-MINDS Website**

COVID-MINDS is a network of longitudinal studies on the global mental health impact of Covid-19. They are linking together studies from countries around the world, supporting the sharing of protocols and data, the harmonisation of mental health measures, and the dissemination of findings to policymakers and health bodies. They are also collating empirical research on mental health as it is published and sending fortnightly newsletters to help researchers stay up to date. To view their website [click here](#).

## **The Impact of the Two Pandemics: VAWG and COVID-19 on Black and Minoritised Women and Girls – Imkaan**

Imkaan have published this report on the impact of COVID-19 on violence against BME women and girls. The report includes new survey data and key recommendations on addressing the "two pandemics". To read the report [click here](#).

## **Preventing Violence Against Women During the COVID-19 Pandemic – Raising Voices**

Raising Voices has developed a series of guidance notes to support activist organizations in adapting and sustaining their violence against women prevention activities. To access the documents [click here](#).

## **Journals that Publish Articles on Violence Against Women – Office for Policy Studies on Violence, Against Women, University of Kentucky**

The Office for Policy Studies on Violence have created a database containing an assortment of information about many of the major scientific journals in which violence against women research is published. To access the database [click here](#).

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## **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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## 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](mailto:vamhn@kcl.ac.uk) to request an invitation

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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)**