



## Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: November Newsletter

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### VAMHN Opportunities

#### Early Career Researcher (ECR) Lunchtime Series

We're so excited to be announcing our VAMHN ECR Lunchtime Series programme! This seminar series will run throughout 2021 and is targeted at early career researchers (including PhD students), with topics including how to engage with policy, advice on publishing and on applying for grants. Click [here](#) to view the full programme on our website.

Tickets are now available for our first event "how to engage with the media": 27<sup>th</sup> January from 12-1.30pm. We've got some incredible speakers lined up including:

- **Stephen Khan** - Executive Editor of The Conversation
- **Andre Tomlin** - Founder and Director of the National Elf Service
- **Freya Robb** - Press Officer Science Media Centre
- **Kirsty Walker** - Director of UCL Media Relations
- **Shiroma Silva** - Senior Shooting Director and Senior Producer at BBC

To get your ticket click [here](#). If you can't make the session, check our website afterwards for the recording

#### Small Grant Competition

Our second plus projects funding call is now open. 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

### **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).



## **Other Training, Events and Opportunities**

We've put together a programme of events being run by our members during the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence** which runs from the 25<sup>th</sup> November – 10<sup>th</sup> December. Have a look at it [here](#).

**The Coordination Team for the 8 Mental Health Research Networks** have organized a a free 2-part event series bringing together researchers from across the networks to provide proactive advice on applying to and securing mental health research funding, career development, and networking.

- Event 1 - 30<sup>th</sup> November
  - The first event focuses on funding. Hear from the perspective both of network funded ECRs and funders on what makes a successful application, have your funding questions addressed by a funding representative and take part in an exciting competition! Register [here](#).
- Event 2 – 7<sup>th</sup> December
  - The second event focuses on networking and career development. You will have the chance to attend a series of “salon-style” breakout rooms where you will be able to ask all kinds of career and funding advice to senior researchers and PI's with a variety of research interests and backgrounds. Register [here](#).

**AVA** are running a free webinar on 8<sup>th</sup> December from 1-3.30pm on 'race, trauma and violence against women and girls'. To register click [here](#).

**The Partner Violence and Mental Health Network** are running a webinar series on ‘Social Dominance, sexual double standards and violence against women’ starting on the 28<sup>th</sup> November. To register click [here](#).

**Surviving Economic Abuse** are running the following webinars next month:

- Economic Abuse and COVID-19, a rapid review: 11<sup>th</sup> December from 10-11.15am. To register click [here](#).
- Economic Abuse and Police: 15<sup>th</sup> December from 2–4pm. To register click [here](#).
- Economic Abuse and Children: 16<sup>th</sup> December from 1–3pm. To register click [here](#).

**The Royal British Legion** has uploaded the recording of their Domestic Violence Conference held on the 7<sup>th</sup> October. To view the recording click [here](#).

**The Intergenerational Trauma Conference** will take place virtually on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021. To get your ticket click [here](#).

**The Culture, Health and Wellbeing International Conference and Exchange** will take place next year and ticket sales will open in January 2021. They have issued a call for abstracts for digital presentations, workshops performances and films. The call covers broad themes including Health inequalities and social determinants of health. To find out more click [here](#).

**Online Counselling Programs** currently have a course on How to Identify and Intervene in Teen Dating Violence (click [here](#) to access) and a page with Resources for People Experiencing Domestic Violence (click [here](#) to access).

**The European Conference on Domestic Violence** is scheduled for the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Their call for papers is now open and closes on the 10<sup>th</sup> December. To find out more click [here](#).



## Ongoing Research

**Alice Gomersall** from The University of East London is looking to recruit participants for her study exploring the professional response to children bereaved by domestic homicide in the UK. She is looking to recruit: a) professionals with direct experience of working with children bereaved by domestic homicide, and b) professionals without direct experience but who are working in the fields of domestic abuse, mental health, social care, and related services, or those that commission these services. Participation would involve completing an online survey estimated to take between 15-20 minutes. Some participants may also wish to volunteer themselves to take part in a follow-up interview; this is entirely optional. To access the survey please click [here](#).

**The International VAMHN group (iVAMHN)** is surveying people's wellbeing and how relationships have been affected by COVID-19 in different places. Please complete their short survey [here](#) and share it with your networks and contacts.

**Emilie Wildman**, a PhD student from King's College London is recruiting for a new qualitative study examining the experience of violence towards family carers from service users with severe mental health conditions. The team are looking for family carers who had experience of aggression/violence from the service user they care for, and service users who have been aggressive/violent to their family carer. Taking part in the study will involve completing a one-off individual (online) interview and participants will be compensated for their time. Please contact [emilie.wildman@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:emilie.wildman@kcl.ac.uk) for more information about taking part.

**Dr Parveen Ali and colleagues** are creating a lexicon of types/ forms describing gender-based violence and harmful practices (against men/ women) across the globe. If you'd like to contribute please click [here](#). If you are interested in contributing in writing a short chapter about any particular practice, do get back to us by completing [this form](#) and we shall get back to you

**UCL STEaPP, University of Queensland and QUT** are calling for domestic violence sector workers in the UK and Australia to take part in a survey to assess the impact of Internet of Things (IoT) technology on survivors of domestic violence. Participants will be asked to share their own, or their organisations, thoughts, insights and practices of working with survivors of domestic and sexual violence and to consider whether the emergence of technology-facilitated abuse is affecting the ways in which women use technology to find information, support and safety. The survey should take 5 to 10 minutes to complete. For more information and the link to the survey click [here](#).

**Researchers at UCL** are hoping to improve interventions for children and families who have experienced domestic violence and/or child maltreatment. [Their study](#) aims to find out what outcomes are most important to people accessing services and programmes. This study has been approved by the UCL Research Ethics Committee. They want to hear from you if you are:

- A parent who has suffered violence or abuse (including financial abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, or coercive control) from your partner during the lifetime of your child/ren,
- or you experienced violence or abuse as a child (this might include physical or sexual abuse, it also includes experience of abuse between parents/caregivers)
- and you're aged over 18 years

Participants will take part in an interview about their goals and priorities during and after the abuse. Participants will be compensated for their time and the team will discuss with you how best to carry out the interview (including what questions they will ask) so you feel as comfortable and safe as possible. Speaking to or meeting with a researcher to hear more about the study will not commit you to taking part. Deciding not to take part will not affect any services you receive. If now isn't the right time for you to take part but you might be interested later on in the year, please do get in touch to let them know. If you took part

in their workshops, they can't interview you but we would really appreciate it if you could forward this invitation on to anyone you know who might like take part. For further information or if you have any questions, please contact Claire at [c.powell@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:c.powell@ucl.ac.uk) or 07586 144250.



## Resources

### **Assessing the Acceptability, Feasibility and Sustainability of an Intervention to Increase Detection of Domestic Violence and Abuse in Patients Suffering From Severe Mental Illness: A Qualitative Study - Ruijne et al, 2020**

This paper examines the acceptability, feasibility, and sustainability of an intervention aiming to improve DVA detection rates and to explore the acceptability and feasibility of DVA management and referrals in general. To read the full paper in *Frontiers in Psychiatry* click [here](#).

### **Locked in abuse, locked out of safety: The pandemic experiences of migrant women – Safety4Sisters, 2020**

This report details evidence collected by Safety4Sisters identifying the risks faced by migrant women as a result of the pandemic. They call for urgent action for migrant women who are increasingly being exposed to high risk situation with violent perpetrators. To read the full report click [here](#).

### **Violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic: An integrative review – Sanchez et al, 2020**

This review analyses the existing literature on strategies and recommendations to respond to violence against women during the implementation of social distancing measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic To read the full paper published in the International Journal of Gynaecology and Obstetrics click [here](#).

### **Psychological therapies for women who experience intimate partner violence – Hameed et al, 2020**

This paper assesses the effectiveness of psychological therapies for women who experience intimate partner violence. To read the full paper in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews click [here](#).

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

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## VAMHN Data Directory

The VAMHN Data Directory has now launched! This new 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. Do check it out [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 [j.s.towers@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:j.s.towers@ljmu.ac.uk). Please note that the resource should be either publicly available or available upon application.

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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)