

**Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: October Newsletter**

**VAMHN Opportunities**

**The ins and outs of grant applications - VAMHN ECR Lunchtime Seminar Series**

On Wednesday 17th November from 12-1.30pm we are hosting a webinar offering expert advice on how to successfully apply for grant applications. We will be joined by the following speakers:

* Professor Madeline Carr - University College London
* Dr Jennifer Hazelton - University College London
* Björn Christianson - UCL Consultants
* Eoin O'Sullivan - University of Cambridge
* Dr Peter J Lovell - NIHR Research Design Service London

To get your free ticket click [here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-ins-and-outs-of-grant-applications-vamhn-ecr-lunchtime-seminar-series-tickets-194528418737).

**Network meeting – save the date**

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting our latest VAMHN Network Meeting on the 23rd November from 10am-12pm. We’ve got an especially exciting agenda and will be circulating the Eventbrite very shortly. Don’t forget to save the date!

**Early Career Researcher Bursary Award Scheme – closing soon!**

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 1st November 2021. To find out more and to apply [click here.](https://www.vamhn.co.uk/ecr-bursaries.html) To read what our previous ECR bursary winners have done with their awards click [here](http://www.vamhn.co.uk/blog/category/vamhn-bursary-award-blogs).

**Other Training, Events and Opportunities**

**The University of Bristol** is inviting you to attend a performance of [Hard Evidence](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bristol.ac.uk%2Fprimaryhealthcare%2Fnews%2F2021%2Fhard-evidence.html&data=04%7C01%7Cvamhn%40kcl.ac.uk%7Cfa2c2e45c57c4855dd0e08d989ad40fd%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637692199509471781%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=AD8E9lDdkZ3RC6tKAOIO5kG8%2BXCsK2VD4SlW0uILx50%3D&reserved=0), a new theatre production shining a light on how getting involved with research empowered women who have experienced domestic abuse to support others. The performance was created in collaboration with the [COMforT (Mindfulness for Trauma) study](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bristolbrc.nihr.ac.uk%2Four-research%2Fmental-health%2Fexperimental-medicine%2Fcomfort-study%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cvamhn%40kcl.ac.uk%7Cfa2c2e45c57c4855dd0e08d989ad40fd%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637692199509481769%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=WvVWMOTWPC1XlfZPnvcle%2B%2FNL5kUZsij8MC8V0BXrYA%3D&reserved=0). Hard Evidence will run for two live performances at [acta community theatre](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.acta-bristol.com%2Fshows%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cvamhn%40kcl.ac.uk%7Cfa2c2e45c57c4855dd0e08d989ad40fd%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637692199509481769%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=UrylBshhJzQMkGnFPs2yblF75HUEJuBKRpI09v%2BguL8%3D&reserved=0) in Bedminster, Bristol, on Tuesday 9th and Friday 12th November from 7-8pm. To get your tickets click [here](https://www.bristol.ac.uk/primaryhealthcare/news/2021/hard-evidence.html).

**The Sexual Violence and Abuse Health Research Network (SVaHRN)** have announced a call for abstracts for their research day. The deadline for submission is the 29th October. Abstracts should be **250-300 words** and submitted on a Word document and you should include your name, affiliation(s), methodology and key findings or contributions and **who will be presenting.** For full details email bluestarproject@the-green-house.org.uk.

**The ManKind Initiative** is holding its annual **Male Victims of Domestic Abuse Conference** on 17th November from 9.30am to 12.30pm. The conference will feature a summary of the latest research and also the impact upon children of domestic abuse. For more information click [here](https://www.mankind.org.uk/conference/).

**16 days of activism against gender-based violence: events and activities**

As many of you may know, the [16 days of activism against gender-based violence](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.unwomen.org%2Fen%2Fwhat-we-do%2Fending-violence-against-women%2Ftake-action%2F16-days-of-activism&data=04%7C01%7Canjuli.1.kaul%40kcl.ac.uk%7Cdd9d5b9997a747cd86a408d9986788c8%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637708393907432949%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=O480vBnKhPBg2TG9VsJvPzS8h%2B%2Fua2fXvIQnP5IHPA8%3D&reserved=0) runs each year from the 25th November – 10th December. Have a look below at some of the activities that some of our members are running to mark this period.

**Shameless! Festival of Activism Against Sexual Violence -** *Birkbeck's SHAME project in collaboration with WOW - Women of the World*

Date of event:27th November

Shameless! will feature talks by high profile speakers, survivors, researchers and medical professionals, alongside performances by incredible artists, poets and musicians, as well as interactive workshops, ‘how to’ clinics and wellness spaces – all available to access with your Day Pass ticket. The festival line-up includes WOW Founder Jude Kelly; prizewinning author Professor Joanna Burke; Founder of Black Minds and UK Slam champion Rachel Nwokoro; best selling author and survivor Winnie M Li; Humanitarian and activist Payzee Mahmod; Soma Sara, the Founder of Everyone’s Invited; poet in residence for the Consent Collective Tanaka Mhishi; authors Laura Bates and Rachel Thompson; Academic Dr Rabiya Majeed-Ariss and award winning podcaster Sangeeta Pillai.

To sign up and find out more click [here](https://bac.org.uk/whats-on/shameless-festival-of-activism-against-sexual-violence/).

**What Good Looks Like: Shining a Light on good practice** – *More Positive Me*

More Positive Me are collecting stories from those who have been supported through services ad have some 'good' practice to share. They are doing this through art projects, poetry & interviews and collating into a short film that will be shared with Devon County council training. To find out more and to get involved click [here](https://forms.gle/rGWprep5ndeHAaVc7).

**The J9 Domestic Abuse Initiative Launch** – *More Positive Me*

Date: 3rd December 10am-12pm Exeter, venue to be confirmed.

The J9 Domestic Abuse Initiative aims to raise awareness of domestic abuse and assist survivors to access support safely by training professionals and members of the community to recognise domestic abuse and respond to survivors. To find out more about the initiative – with details of the Launch event to follow shortly, click [here](https://www.morepositiveme.co.uk/j9).

**Best Practice in Working with Child Survivors of Domestic Abuse** - *AVA (Against Violence & Abuse) Project*

Date: 1st December from 1-4pm

This webinar will focus on the rights and needs of child survivors of domestic abuse. With a range of expert speakers and an opportunity to ask questions, this webinar will give you an insight into the best practice in working with child survivors, how children's rights have changed with the new Domestic Abuse Act and how we can make services that meet the intersectional needs of child survivors.

To sign up click [here](https://www.bigmarker.com/against-violence-and-abuse/Best-Practice-in-Working-with-Child-Survivors-of-Domestic-Abuse).

**Job, Education and Voluntary Opportunities**

**Agenda** are currently recruiting for a freelance social researcher for the final stages of [Girls Speak](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fweareagenda.org%2Fgirlsspeak%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cvamhn%40kcl.ac.uk%7Cd78ddf4116e04f2101b108d98ff650b5%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637699111834518311%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=wM4jtaOWGnWcud7byvltLQ5ZADy3b1722DUmOdWlUmo%3D&reserved=0) campaign – a campaign to ensure girls and young women facing inequality, poverty and violence get the support and protection they need.  The purpose of this role is to support Agenda's Policy team with qualitative analysis for the final Girls Speak report. The deadline for applications is Sunday 31st October. To apply click [here](https://weareagenda.org/vacancy-girls-speak-researcher/).

**Ongoing Research**

**The James Lind Alliance (JLA) Priority Setting Partnership** have launched a survey which aims to shape future research by ensuring the direction is set by those affected to improve services for survivors. The survey is open to anyone with experience (both/either in a personal or professional capacity) of sexual violence. to access the survey, click [here](https://www.qualtrics.manchester.ac.uk/jfe/form/SV_6YHfjWj20z5QOF0).

**The Violence Abuse and Mental Health Network** ([VAMHN](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.vamhn.co.uk%2F&data=04%7C01%7Canjuli.1.kaul%40kcl.ac.uk%7Cdd9d5b9997a747cd86a408d9986788c8%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637708393907482915%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=S3f4eNDObi8GjZVTabUkDCE0xwD%2FwLmU7WAqFzbXYX0%3D&reserved=0)) are collaborating with colleagues at **University of Leeds and Edinburgh Napier University** to investigate strategies for researcher wellbeing when working on violence and abuse, including during COVID-19.  The project has received ethics approval from University of Leeds: PSYC-308. To take part in our anonymous survey, please go to [https://leedspsychology.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_3K8Qu3BJHeFgrVY](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fleedspsychology.eu.qualtrics.com%2Fjfe%2Fform%2FSV_3K8Qu3BJHeFgrVY&data=04%7C01%7Canjuli.1.kaul%40kcl.ac.uk%7Cdd9d5b9997a747cd86a408d9986788c8%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637708393907482915%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=aPQ4PIlQN7bt8Zn72BnM1mUy9E8rHwn9a8Dgbr9G33o%3D&reserved=0) - it takes less than 10 minutes!

**A research team from the NIHR Children and Families Policy Research Unit (CPRU)** have developed a core outcome set for family-focused interventions in the domestic violence and abuse (DVA) sector. This work is being developed by reaching out to members of DVA organisations to complete a survey to share insights about the measurement tools used in practice. The findings from the survey will be used by the research team to conduct a Home Office funded rapid review on the measurement tools that are used and are acceptable in supporting individuals and families affected by DVA.  Should you feel that you may be able to contribute to knowledge base of the tools that are used in practice to measure DVA outcomes, please could we kindly ask you to complete the survey below. The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete, and only one member of an organisation needs to take part. To access the survey click [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdyML8RmcwEFxFxNASlt4AVzm8o2x6fDOPzD9z7a0Ow6Gmm4A/viewform?usp=sf_link). Please share this link with colleagues internationally. Through this link you will find the French, Spanish and Portuguese versions: [https://osf.io/j3ukc/wiki/home/](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fosf.io%2Fj3ukc%2Fwiki%2Fhome%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cvamhn%40kcl.ac.uk%7C9eed9d3bcf6d4d25247208d999d1a21d%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637709947932272184%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Pp4g5SWYhkg4aY5r9I7KVCIoAVn%2BfN8rYAt07xyobVM%3D&reserved=0)

**The Sexual Harms and Medical Encounters (SHaME) project** at Birkbeck is currently seeking online interviews with people who have experienced sexual violence. This study aims to understand how people experience and talk about sexual violence, and how this is affected by neurodivergence or mental health experiences. If you have experienced sexual violence since the age of 16, are in touch with a support service, over 18, and willing to talk about your experiences of mental health or neurodivergence for up to two hours, SHaME would be grateful to hear from you. Participants will be compensated for their time and the researcher will meet with you online before the interview to try to ensure the experience is as comfortable and safe as possible. Speaking to the researcher does not mean that you have to take part. If you think you might be interested in participating, or would like further information, then please get in touch with Emma Yapp at: eyapp01@mail.bbk.ac.uk

**A PhD student at University College London** is seeking feedback on his draft thesis titled “How do parole board members in England and Wales decide whether to release men who have perpetrated domestic violence against women?”. He is particularly seeking input on what his findings mean for people who have experienced domestic violence. If you are willing to provide feedback on his thesis, please contact Chris Dyke at c.dyke.18@ucl.ac.uk.

**Resources**

**Violence and Women’s Mental Health Series –** *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology Journal & VAMHN, 2021*

The network has linked up with the Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology Journal to coordinate a state-of the-art series of invited reviews and original papers. So far three papers have been published as part of the series with more to come. To read all papers click [here](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flink.springer.com%2Fcollections%2Fbbgadjifji&data=04%7C01%7Cvamhn%40kcl.ac.uk%7C2a5981e9b14a45bada3a08d93181334d%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637595253257152685%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=7V1FIaXp9lHGAyWjm3QsQ2wxHASxENcYMWu4hJyXUMs%3D&reserved=0).

**Impacts of Male Intimate Partner Violence on Women: A Life Course Perspective –** Hing et al, 2021

This study examines women's experiences of IPV at different stages over their life courses. Interviews were conducted with 18 women who had left an abusive relationship and were analysed using thematic narrative analysis and the findings were presented according to trajectories, transitions, and turning points over their life courses. To read the paper in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* click [here](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8391608/).

**Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma-Informed Care** – Goddard, 2021

This review looks at the intersection of trauma-informed approaches and ACEs, exploring how ACEs affect health, screening protocols for ACEs, and the importance of healthcare provider's abilities to respond and not re-traumatize patients when delivering evidence-based care. To read the full article in *Journal of Paediatric Health Care* click [here](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0891524520302315?via%3Dihub).

*For more useful resources and links, take a look at* *our website here*

**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](http://www.vamhn.co.uk/directories.html).

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 j.s.towers@ljmu.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.

1. **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](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.vamhn.co.uk%2Fexpert-directory.html&data=04%7C01%7Cvamhn%40kcl.ac.uk%7Ca698467a69994c7b1d3608d93faa0150%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637610821666076220%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=7i15Fcr0PZl%2Bz4LWqeGwy8mxFxq6cEVgikE47ufXHVk%3D&reserved=0).**The password to the webpage is UKRInetwork1!**

1. **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](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.vamhn.co.uk%2Fnetwork-directory.html&data=04%7C01%7Cvamhn%40kcl.ac.uk%7Ca698467a69994c7b1d3608d93faa0150%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637610821666086211%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=gPOPvWPmVZ%2FtS2Hy4S3BkI0VNwOneADfYfdNpIeMC2g%3D&reserved=0).**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 [j.s.towers@ljmu.ac.uk](http://about:blank/).

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](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.vamhn.co.uk%2Fjoin-the-network.html&data=04%7C01%7Cvamhn%40kcl.ac.uk%7Ca698467a69994c7b1d3608d93faa0150%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637610821666096207%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=CSqhbzIFkiWOdWpxFoDCCCRlK73ldG1qKXnLM1XM4lg%3D&reserved=0) and contact us at vamhn@kcl.ac.uk to request the password.

**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 to request an invitation

**Useful Links**

VAMHN website: https://www.vamhn.co.uk/

VAMHN twitter: @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**