

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

**VAMHN Opportunities**

**VAMHN Grant Competition – Now Open!**

The third VAMHN Grant Competition on the theme of *interventions* is now open! Grants are available up to a maximum of £25,000 and can be used to deliver a targeted piece of research or to pump-prime larger projects. The deadline for applications is the 2nd June 2021 at 5pm. To find out more and to download the application pack click [here](http://www.vamhn.co.uk/grant-competitions.html).

We will be running a webinar soon with our VAMHN Lived Experience Advisory Group to provide an opportunity to discuss good practice on lived experience involvement for violence, abuse, and mental health research. We will be releasing full details on this webinar shortly.

**Early Career Researcher Grant Writing Workshops** **– Deadline extended!**

The VAMHN Early Career Researcher Virtual Proposal Workshops support junior researchers working in the field of domestic/sexual violence and mental health who are preparing applications to submit for funding. These workshops are facilitated by two senior members of VAMHN and provide a supportive environment for ECRs to receive constructive feedback on their grant applications.  These workshops will take place online via Zoom every two months for a year. For full details and to apply click here. The deadline for application has been extended to the **22nd April at 5pm.**

**Early Career Researcher (ECR) Lunchtime Series – save the date!**

The next webinar in our Early Career Researcher (ECR) Lunchtime Series will take place on the 12th May from 12-1.30pm – save the date! This webinar will be all about juggling commitments.We’ll be releasing tickets soon so watch this space! Click here to view the full seminar series programme on our website.

**Early Career Researcher Bursary Award Scheme** **– Now Open!**

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 6th April 2021. To find out more and to apply click here. To read what our previous ECR bursary winners have done with their awards click here.

**VAMHN Webinar Recordings**

This past month we’ve hosted both our VAMH Network Meeting and an ECR Lunchtime Seminar Series webinar on “how to engage with policy”. If you missed them, don’t worry, we’ve uploaded the full recordings to our website. You can find them 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 .

**Other Training, Events and Opportunities**

**The Journal of Gender-Based Violence is** planning a Special Issue on the COVID Pandemic and GBV to be published in 2022. They are interested in research articles from different disciplines and countries looking at impacts of the pandemic on GBV survivors, on perpetrator behaviours, on services and institutional responses, as well as wider concerns. They are looking for articles with a maximum 7,000 words for the Main section, or shorter pieces of 2,000-4,000 words for their Policy and Practice or Open Space sections. Abstracts of 300 words should be submitted to jgbv-editorial@bristol.ac.uk by 31 March 2021 for consideration by the JGBV Editors. Completed articles will be required by 1 September 2021.

Safelives are running a webinar on the 31st March from 9.30-11am to launch their new report on why London needs a whole-health approach to domestic abuse. Click [here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/why-we-need-a-whole-health-approach-to-domestic-abuse-in-london-tickets-144391164861?utm_campaign=post_publish&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eventbrite&utm_content=shortLinkNewEmail) to register.

**The SHaME Team** at Birkbeck University of London are hosting an online event on the 14th April from 5-6.30pm featuring a distinguished panel of award-winning authors who will speak about transforming their own lived experiences of sexual violence into different forms of literature. To book your place click here.

**The MQ Mental Health Science Summit** takes place on the 12th and 13th May. This year’s themes include Mental health in the COVID era, Children and young people’s mental health and Mental health inequalities. Tickets are available here.

**Health and Care Research Wales** are running an workshop on “Preparing to write a research funding application” to offer support and advice on the application process from the Research Design and Conduct Service (RDCS). The workshop takes place on the 29th April from 1-3pm. To find out more click here.

**Coventry University** are hosting an event on 12th May from 10am-1pm on “Enhancing responses to sexual violence and abuse”. To find out more and book a place click here.

**The Havens Sexual Assault Referral Centre** are hosting their 7th International Conference on the Survivors of Rape online on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th June 2021 with a pre-conference on Tuesday 8th June. Registration and abstract submissions are now open. For more information click here.

**The Fourth European Conference on Domestic Violence** takes places in Slovenia from 13th-15th September 2021. Registration for the conference will be opened form the 30th April. For more information click [here](http://ecdv-ljubljana.org/).

**Job, Education and Voluntary Opportunities**

**Lancaster University** are hiring a Research Associate on the “Impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on criminal justice journeys of adult and child survivors of sexual abuse, rape, and sexual assault.” Salary - £28,331 to £32,817. The closing date for applications is 4th April 2021. To find out more and to apply click here.

**Imkaan** are currently recruiting two posts:

* Research Coordinator - 21 / 28 hrs per week - salary range - £28,444 - £33,444 (pro rata)
* Database Coordinator - 21 / 28 hrs per week - salary range - £28,444 - £33,444 (pro rata)

The closing date for applications is the 9th April at 5pm. To find out more and to apply click here.

**NAPAC** are currently recruiting a number of voluntary positions to their Board of Trustees. The deadline for applications is the 16th April. For full details click here.

**Ongoing Research**

**Siofra Peeren from King’s College London** is looking to speak to women who have experienced any form of sexual violence since the age of 16 to tell her about their experience of pregnancy, maternity care, labour/birth and early motherhood. They will not ask about experiences of abuse and/or violence and you do not have to talk about anything you do not want to. You will receive a £15 One4All voucher as a thank you and travel and childcare experiences are reimbursed. For more information, see the study flyer here and get in touch with Siofra at siofra.peeren@kcl.ac.uk.

**Louise Hiam from University College London** is currently conducting a research project on “The different implications of support systems that work with adult survivors of child sexual abuse (CSA)” as part of her BSc. She is looking to hold interviews with participants with adults that:

* Work in the United-Kingdom.
* Work with CSA adult survivors currently or worked with them in the past.
* Work within a public, non-profit (charity, helpline) or private service, either as a psychologist, trained counsellor and/or advisor, social/charity worker, volunteer.
* Have 2 years of experience in one of the professions cited above.

Participation in this research project will be entirely confidential and anonymous. For more information please contact Louise at louise.hiam.18@ucl.ac.uk.

**The MARCH Covid Social Study** are beginningone-to-one interviews with women who have experienced intimate partner violence during the pandemic and how this has impacted behaviours, mental health and wellbeing. If you are interested in participating in the study and feel safe to do so, you can find more information from here or contact Alison McKinlay at a.mckinlay@ucl.ac.uk.

**Nicky Paris at the University of Chester** is looking for participants to take part in a study on “exploring clients’ experiences of recovery from sexual violence - how counselling/psychotherapy may help or hinder the process” as part of her Professional Doctorate in Counselling and Psychotherapy at the University of Chester. To participate in this study:

* You must be over 18 years old.
* The episode(s) of sexual violence happened over one year ago.
* You have completed counselling/psychotherapy addressing the impact of sexual violence since the assault.
* You feel generally able to talk about your experiences of counselling/psychotherapy without experiencing overwhelming distress.

To find out more please contact Nicky at 1718664@chester.ac.uk

**Resources**

**Safe, Seen, Supported** – Chevous et al, 2021

This survivor-led initiative carried out in partnership with Survivors’ Voices, Laura E Fischer, The Violence Abuse and Mental Health Network and The McPin Foundation aims to address the magnified risks of child abuse from COVID-19 and the likely significant post-pandemic consequences from increased exposure to abuse. The report identifies key considerations and actions to support children and young people at-risk, both during the pandemic and beyond. Alongside the report is an infographic aimed at children and young people who are a) at risk of or experiencing abuse or b) know someone who might be experiencing abuse.

To read the Safe, Seen, Supported report click here.

To view the Safe, Seen, Supported infographic click here. To download the shareable Instagram version click here.

**Violence Against Women Prevalence Estimates 2018** – *World Health Organisation, 2021*

This report is based on an analysis of available prevalence data from surveys and studies conducted between 2000 and 2018, obtained through a systematic and comprehensive review of all available data on the prevalence of these two forms of violence against women. The estimates in this report update the global and regional prevalence estimates published by WHO in 2013 , and this report also presents cross-nationally comparable country-level prevalence estimates of physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence. To read the report click here.

**Tackling women’s multiple disadvantage in Greater Manchester** – *AVA & Agenda, 2021*

This briefing builds on work following Breaking Down The Barriers: the final report of the Commission into women’s domestic and sexual violence and multiple disadvantage. The Commission was established to explore the links between domestic and sexual abuse and multiple disadvantage – particularly mental health, substance use issues, homelessness and poverty. The Commission aimed to shed light on the challenges facing these women, who are often overlooked in policy making and practice development. This briefing specifically focuses on women facing multiple disadvantage in Greater Manchester and makes recommendations aimed at decision makers to improve responses. To read the briefing click here.

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

**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. Please note that the resource should be either publicly available or available upon application.

**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**