



## Terms of Reference

### Violence Against Children Research Assistant Position

#### Background

The [Sexual Violence Research Initiative \(SVRI\)](#) is the world's **largest network on research on violence against women (VAW) and violence against children (VAC)**, providing a space where global role players in the field connect with one another, share and promote their research, work to influence policies and improve the lives of those who have experienced violence driven by gender inequality. We do this through [funding research](#), [strengthening research capacity](#), promoting partnerships and influencing change. The SVRI became an independent organisation in 2019. It is incorporated as a non-profit organisation under South African law (SVRI NPC 2019/197466/08) having spun out of the SAMRC. The new [Strategic Plan](#) for the period 2020 – 2024 was launched in October 2019.

The SVRI is seeking to appoint a Research Assistant to support a consultative strategic planning process around clarifying SVRI's role in advancing VAC, and specifically childhood sexual abuse (CSA), work in line with our broader strategy pillars. This process includes conducting reviews, supporting a research priority setting process that is already underway, developing an integrative theoretical model, reviewing tools and guidance materials for dissemination via SVRI platforms, organizing learning events, and coordinating a participatory event with the SVRI membership and key stakeholders. The successful applicant will support the SVRI Technical Specialist and SVRI VAC Researcher in these processes and the development of an overarching report detailing SVRI's approach to VAC and CSA work. This one-year contract (starting January 2021) could be a part-time or full-time contract position depending on the successful applicants' availability.

#### Objective

The objective of the work is to support the SVRI processes in clarifying and strengthening our contributions to ending VAC and CSA through building evidence, strengthening capacity, promoting partnerships and influencing change.

#### Specific tasks

Support the Technical Specialist and VAC Researcher with various tasks related to:

- Conducting reviews (of SVRI's current strategic plan and work; tools and guidance materials for VAC and CSA research and programming; scoping review)
- Completing the VAC-VAW intersections research priority setting process
- Consultative processes for strategic planning including a workshop or dialogue with SVRI members and stakeholders
- Developing an integrative theoretical model
- Coordinating VAC/CSA learning events
- Implementing communications activities as identified in a VAC communications strategy to be developed for SVRI

## Required education, experience and competencies

- Master's degree in Social Sciences, Development, Public Health, or a related field.
- At least two years' experience in research on violence against children / childhood sexual abuse / child protection.
- Experience with VAC-VAW intersections and feminist approaches to research an advantage.
- Experience of working in multicultural contexts.
- Strong analytical, strategic thinking and planning skills
- Self-motivated and able to work independently and remotely under tight deadlines.
- Proficiency in English. Working knowledge of Spanish, French, or another language would be an advantage.
- Strong writing skills.
- Preference will be given to consultants from LMICs.

## Application Process

Interested candidates must submit:

- A covering letter outlining how you would contribute to the work described in this advertisement and how work with the SVRI will advance your career (ie: how are you the best fit for the position; and, how is SVRI the best fit for you at this stage of your career)
- A Curriculum Vitae showing experience relevant to the position
- 3 References and/or Reference Letters.
- Educational transcripts
- One writing example – blog, paper, article etc.

The proposal and supporting documents must be submitted in English.

Candidates will be invited to a video conference interview at the end of the shortlisting process

The proposal and required documents must be sent by email to Anik Gevers at [anik@svri.org](mailto:anik@svri.org) no later than **25 November 2020 (midnight South African time)**.