

Sexual Violence Research Initiative



SVRI Structure and Management

- **Funders: GFHR, Ford Foundation, World Bank**
 - **Secretariat: Secretary, Programme Officer**
 - **Coordinating Group: 11 experts from around the world. Selection based on technical expertise, nomination from networks, geographical representation**
 - **Rules and regulations**
 - **Monitoring and evaluation:**
 - **Monthly meetings & reports**
 - **Quarterly meetings exec**
 - **Annual meeting & report**
 - **Online questionnaire**
- **ICRW, USA**
 - **PATH, Nicaragua**
 - **Intercambios**
 - **Population Council, India**
 - **University of Arizona, USA**
 - **Victoria University, Australia**
 - **Liverpool VCT, Kenya**
 - **Center for Development Services, Egypt**
 - **Women's Centre, Georgia**
 - **WHO, Geneva**
 - **GFHR, Geneva**



Sexual violence is a global issue that requires coordinated evidence based responses

SVRI Aim

The SVRI aims to promote research on sexual violence and generate empirical data to ensure sexual violence is recognised as a priority public health problem



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SVRI Objectives

- **Increase awareness of sexual violence as a priority public health problem through evidence based communication and information**
- **Strengthen the support and funding base for research on sexual violence**
- **Build capacity in sexual violence research**
- **Improve knowledge of sexual violence internationally to influence policy and service delivery**



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Increase awareness of sexual violence as a priority public health problem

- o Website www.svri.org

- o SVRI List-serv



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SVRI Website

- **Issues Pages:** General documents, Health effects, HIV, Human rights texts, Children, Conflict Settings, Research ethics, Trafficking, Disabilities, FGM/Traditional Harmful Practices; Masculinities; Medico-Legal Responses; Prevention; Advocacy; Restorative Justice
- **Country Pages:** 106 country pages with resources, publications, links and news articles
- **Calendar of Events**
- **Sexual Violence Research Agenda**
- **Desk Reviews**
- **Research Tools**
- **Online Discussion forum**
- **Updated weekly**
- **HON accreditation**

Stats for August 2007 (2006)

- **Unique visitors – 2161 (645)**
 - Based on IP number
- **Number of visits – 5189 (1489)**
 - Including returning visits
- **Pages – 19,998 (6,807)**
 - Pages visited during August



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Sexual Violence Research Initiative

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Harmful Practices
Masculinities
Medico-Legal Responses
Prevention
Advocacy
Restorative Justice

Tools

Research Guidelines
Research Instruments
Treatment Guidelines

Sexual Violence Research Initiative

The **Sexual violence** is a violation of human rights and a serious public health problem. It has a profound impact on physical and mental health, both immediately and many years after the assault. To date, sexual violence has received insufficient attention from researchers, policy-makers and programme designers and it has been a long struggle to have it recognised as a legitimate public health issue.

The **Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI)** is committed to action to address these gaps.

SVRI News

SVRI/UK Consortium on AIDS and International Development Partnership Project
Knowledge library and exchange platform: Sexual violence & HIV. [Read more.](#)

SVRI Coordinating Group

The SVRI Coordinating Group has four new members. [Read more.](#)

SVRI in the News

South Africa: Group calls for more research on sexual violence. [Read more.](#)

SVRI Bi-weekly Circulars and Discussion Forum

- [Subscribe](#) to the SVRI bi-weekly Circulars.
- [Join](#) the SVRI Discussion Forum

Featured Pages

How to Conduct a Situation Analysis of Health Services for Survivors of Sexual Assault: The SVRI has facilitated the development of a guide to assist you in reviewing the current status of health services for survivors of sexual assault.

The SVRI has developed a research agenda for sexual violence:

[View the Web version](#) or
The [pdf version](#) (231 kb)

Coordinating Group



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Funders

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We comply with the **HONcode** standard for health trustworthy information: [verify here.](#)



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Issues pages

This section contains links to information and documents relating to specific issues in sexual violence & sexual violence research.

- [General documents on sexual violence](#)
- [Health effects of sexual violence](#)
- [Sexual violence and HIV](#)
- [Human rights texts related to sexual violence](#)
- [Sexual violence against children](#)
- [Sexual Violence in Conflict Settings](#)
- [Research ethics](#)
- [Trafficking](#)
- [Sexual violence against people with disabilities](#)
- [Female Genital Mutilation/Traditional Harmful Practices](#)
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Feedback on SVRI site

We welcome your comments/input on the SVRI site. Your feedback is very important to us.

Calendar of events

[Conferences and Meetings](#)



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- Tools**
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 - Resources and Publications
 - Research Guidelines

› | **Guidelines and Tools**

This section contains a selection of guidelines and tools to inform sexual violence research and interventions.

› | **SVRI Research Resources and Publications**

[Assessment Instruments Used To Study Healthcare-Based Interventions for Women Who Have Experienced Sexual Violence](#), Martin S.L., Young S., Billings D.L., IPAS, SVRI, 2007

[SVRI Research Agenda](#)

[How to Conduct a Situation Analysis of Health Services for Survivors of Sexual Assault: a guide](#), SVRI, 2006

› | **Research Guidelines**

[Cuidar y atender!: Guía práctica para conocer cómo funcionan los servicios de salud para mujeres víctimas y sobrevivientes de violencia sexual](#), IPAS, 2007

[Asking research participants about trauma and abuse.](#) - Ullman SE. Am Psychol; 62 (4): 329-30. 2007

[Researching Violence Against Women: A Practical Guide for Researchers and Activists](#), 2005

[A Guide for Conducting Research on the Formulation of Sexual and Health-related Behaviour Among Young Men:](#)* Training Guidelines, Study Guides, and Informed Consent Forms. The CATALYST Consortium, 2005

[Gender Research Guide](#), INSTRAW

[IASC Guideline](#)

› | **Research Instruments**

[The Safe Schools Program, Quantitative Research Instrument to Measure School-Related Gender- Based Violence:](#) Assessing the Knowledge, attitudes, practices and experiences of boys, girls and teachers which physical, psychological and sexual violence, Centre for Educational Research and Training / DevTech Systems, 2006

[Measuring Intimate Partner Violence Victimization and Perpetration:](#) A Compendium of Assessment Tools. Atlanta (GA): Thompson MP, Basile KC, Hertz MF, Sitterle D. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 2006

[Quantitative Research Instrument to Measure School-Related Gender-Based Violence](#), DevTech Systems, CERT, 2006



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Sexual Violence Research Agenda

- **The Sexual Violence Research Agenda aims to focus attention on and funnel limited resources to redress knowledge gaps. It is designed to:**
 - **Assist researchers to identify study questions within the areas of highest need;**
 - **Assist donors in shaping funding programmes that are based on research gaps and priorities, and promote best use of limited research resources; and**
 - **Inform the development of responsive and effective sexual violence services, prevention and advocacy programmes**



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What and Who is the Agenda For?

- **Sexual Violence Research Agenda Priorities:**
 - To prioritise research that will facilitate effective responses to sexual violence and contribute to the prevention of sexual violence;
 - To address issues that particularly impact on lower and middle income countries;
 - To provide a sound practical and empirical foundation for interventions, policy and advocacy programmes within countries, and at regional and global levels.
- **It is envisaged that the research agenda will be an important resource for:**
 - Researchers
 - Funders/donor agencies
 - Policy makers
 - Service planners
 - Gender and human rights advocates



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How the research agenda was informed

- **The SVRI agenda was informed by:**
 - **A review of published literature on sexual violence and identifying the major gaps in research evidence**
 - **A series of SVRI facilitated international expert meetings and discussions**
 - **Recommendations arising from the following chapters of the World Report on Violence and Health: child abuse and neglect by parents and other caregivers; sexual violence; and self-directed violence.**



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Key Focus Areas

1. **Nature, Prevalence, Social Context and Risk Factors Associated with Sexual Violence**
2. **Appropriateness and Effectiveness of Sexual Violence Services**
3. **Sexual Violence Prevention**
4. **Sexual Violence and Restorative Justice**
5. **Sexual Violence in Conflict and Emergency Settings**
6. **Child Sexual Abuse**
7. **Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation**
8. **Female Genital Cutting / Mutilation**



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Tools Page

- **Assessment Instruments Used To Study Healthcare-Based Interventions for Women Who Have Experienced Sexual Violence**, Martin S.L., Young S., Billings D.L., IPAS, SVRI, 2007
<http://www.svri.org/evaluation.htm>
 - Aim was to conduct a review of evaluation instruments that have been used in empirical investigations of healthcare-based interventions for women who have experienced sexual violence
 - Twenty-nine assessment instruments were reviewed.
 - 15 of the instruments focused on health, 8 (28%) focused on service delivery, 1 (3%) focused on attitudes, 1 (3%) focused on behavior, and 4 (13%) focused on multiple topics. All but one of the health focused instruments examined some aspect of mental health



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Tools Page (cont..)

- **How to Conduct a Situation Analysis of Health Services for Survivors of Sexual Assault: a guide, SVRI, 2006 <http://www.svri.org/analysis.htm>**
- Provides researchers with steps and tools to undertake a national situation analysis of sexual assault services
 - Facility check list
 - Health care provider questionnaire
- Tools developed by the SAGVHI (Ref: Christofides NJ, et.al. 2005)



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Online Discussion Forum

- Platform for online discussions / networking
- Registration for new participant
 1. Accept principles
 2. Complete registration form
 3. Log in and participate
- Login for existing participant
- Not moderated



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SVRI Discussion Forum

The SVRI Discussion Forum provides SVRI Members with a platform for networking with others, sharing research ideas, methodologies, approaches and to engage in debate on relevant and topical issues within the field of sexual violence.

We welcome SVRI Members to use this Forum to post questions, start debates, discuss issues you feel are important in order to develop and strengthen programmes to respond to sexual violence survivors/victims and ultimately to prevent sexual violence.

Registration for the SVRI Discussion Forum requires that you must comply with the principles of the SVRI and agree to the [Forum's Terms and Conditions](#).

- [Register](#) to become a member.
- [Log into](#) the Discussion forum.



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User Login

Login using the form below. If you don't have a user account, you can [create a new account](#).

User Login	
Username:	<input type="text" value="hendra"/>
Password:	<input type="password" value="*****"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Remember Me
	I forgot my password
	<input type="button" value="Login"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/> - <input type="button" value="Create Account"/>

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Guidelines and tools | Support Forums: Forum Home

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Search All Forums: Online Users: 0 guest(s), 1 user(s). [More info >](#)

Forum / Category	Views	Threads / Messages	Last Post
SVRI discussions	15	1 / 1	Jul 24, 2007 9:02 AM by: Liz Dartnall >

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Thread: Sexual Violence and Restorative Justice

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Replies: 0 - Pages: 1

[Liz Dartnall](#)

Posts: 1
From: South Africa
Registered: 7/20/07

Sexual Violence and Restorative Justice

Posted: Jul 24, 2007 9:02 AM

[Reply](#)

There is increasing awareness that the requirements of legal proceedings are often in conflict with the needs of sexual violence survivors/victims. Experiences of the adversarial court processes post-sexual violence are often traumatic, requiring the survivor/victim to confront their assailant, to defend their case and re-live the experience. Restorative justice aims to repair harm done to a survivor/victim of sexual violence, (and where appropriate to their families/communities) through offender acceptance of responsibility, reparations and rehabilitation, whether as a supplementary process, or an alternative, to conventional court proceedings.

There is however limited experience world wide in using restorative justice for sexual assault cases. In New Zealand and South Australia, restorative justice approaches are used routinely for youth sexual assault cases but no jurisdiction worldwide routinely employs alternative justice approaches to adult sexual assault cases. Some argue that sexual assault crimes are incompatible with the restorative justice models. Some of the challenges/concerns about the application of restorative justice to sexual violence include:

- the possibility of offenders manipulating the system to their own advantage
- perception by offenders (and community) of the system as a 'soft' alternative to prison
- unequal distribution between victim and offender of resources in terms of communication and support
- emphasis on reconciliation may inadvertently underline a woman's decision to terminate a relationship
- the commitment of a community and its members to tackling sexual violence without victim blaming
- the need for support and resulting personal disclosure.

Kathleen Daly (2000) suggests that the challenge for restorative justice is to treat serious offences seriously. Daly suggests that it is not yet possible to endorse or reject restorative processes in relation to sexualised violence or other gendered harms. She argues that if diversionary conferences are considered as one kind of process, they may be appropriate in the handling of some offences, especially when this entails offenders' admissions of wrongdoing and perhaps when offenders are viewed as "immature". However, for other cases, face-to-face meetings may be inappropriate, especially when offenders show no remorse and have a history of violence. [Source: SVRI research agenda and unpublished manuscript]

Can restorative justice models work for adult sexual assault cases? What is your experience of restorative justice? What are the challenges/successes you experienced?

Pages: 1

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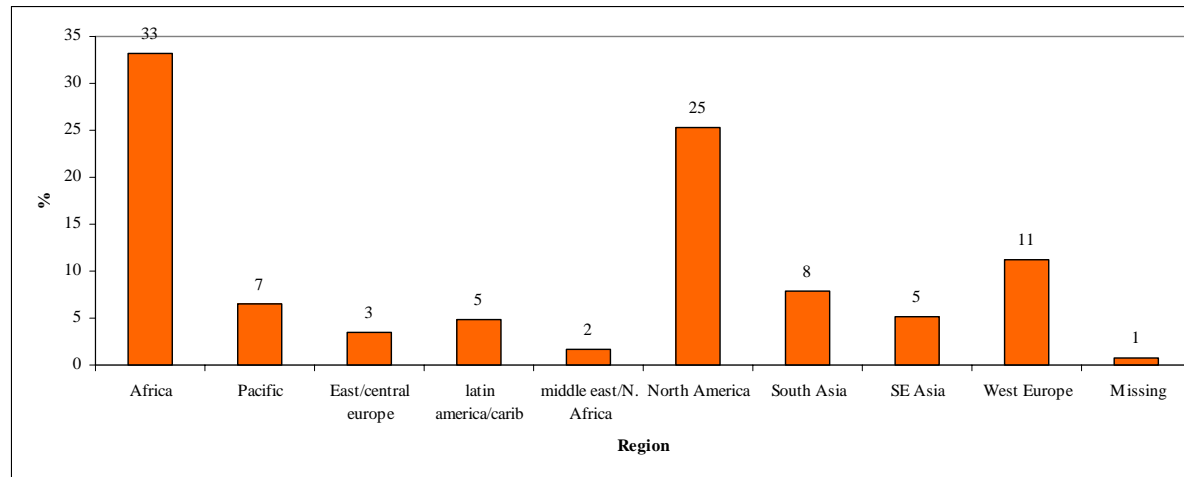
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SVRI List-serv

'...thank you so much for these regular listings. since i'm an independent researcher, i rely on the wonderful compendiums that others can pull together. yours is always extremely useful' [SVRI list member, July 2006]

- Powerful dissemination tool
- 931 members representing donors, researchers, students, policy makers
- 80 different countries
- Bi-weekly Updates:
 - SVRI Update on Resources and Publications
 - websites, resources and publications, funding opportunities, events, vacancies
 - SV in the News



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Strengthen the Support and Funding Base

- Database of donors available links page <http://www.svri.org/funding.htm>. Updated regularly
- Meeting funders / Networking (CGrp)
- Presentations and active participation in conferences / workshops etc.
- Sexual Violence Research Agenda <http://www.svri.org/agenda.pdf>



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Build capacity in sexual violence research

- **Facilitate access to tools / information via website**
- **Ethics Guidelines: research with perpetrators**
- **Training workshops: India 2007; Kenya 2008**
- **Conference South Africa 2009**
- **Multi-country study proposal development project:**
 - **103 applications received**
 - **2 concept papers selected:**
 - **multi-country study in Kenya, South Africa, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe => proposal fully funded for research on strengthening the health sector response to sexual violence in East and Southern Africa**
 - **a study between partners based in India and Pakistan**



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Improve knowledge of sexual violence internationally

- Collaborative partnerships:
 - AfroAIDSInfo Portal
 - AIDSPortal
 - C-Grp
- Factsheets
- Roundtable on sexual violence in Arab nations (Forum 10, Cairo)
- Roundtable and special session on Sexual Violence in China (Forum 11, Beijing)
- Review on sexual violence in China
- Translation of materials into Spanish, Chinese
- Website is available in Spanish
- Resources available in languages other than English where available



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Feedback

“Your program is outstanding. Thank you for this information.”

The comprehensive and serious research-based content of SVRI's work needs and deserves global exposure.

Indeed, the importance of empirical research and academic documentation are pivotal in moving forward actions and accountability, cross sectors, for women and girl victims of sexual violence.”

(Coordinator, Women's UN Report Network, Aug 2007)



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to join

Visit: <http://www.svri.org/discussions/>

Email: svri@mrc.ac.za



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