Feminist Response to COVID

women from resources. This article offers strategies on how to respond to violence against women (VAW) and resources to respond to VAW during COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. 

Remote data collection on violence against women during COVID-19: A conversation with experts on ethics, measurement and research priorities. Amber Peterman, Amiya Bhatia and Alessandra Guedes: Early on in COVID19 it was clear research would transition to remote options. This raised a lot of questions for researchers working on violence. In this Innocenti think piece, experts unpack what COVID-19 means for data collection efforts. [Source: UNICEF].

Survey methods galore (SMS, ACASI, phone), how to deal with interruptions in field research, a new virtual seminar series and more. David Mckenzie. 8 May 2020: This blog summarizes blogs that share information on conducting research during pandemics. (Source: World Bank).

Blog: Should I start a new relationship after domestic violence? Lisa Aronson Fontes: With the extreme stresses of COVID-19 and social distancing, it is easy to crave a relationship that will make all the pain go away. Some survivors of domestic violence want another chance at love. Some feel lost when they separate from the partner who abused them, missing the companionship that even a controlling relationship provided. They may long deeply for the promise of love and protection that the abuser failed to provide.

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Blog: How “de-biasing” humanitarian organizations could lead to more gender-equitable programming during COVID-19 and beyond. Vandana Sharma and Jennifer Scott: In this blog, the authors emphasize that addressing gender biases now could improve COVID-19 response efforts as well as other emergency response programming in the future. [Source: Harvard Humanitarian Initiative].

Blog: Pandemics - misogynist violence against women and girls and COVID-19. Jeanne Sarson and Linda MacDonald: Trapped by the COVID-19 stay at home policy, reports are telling of increased violence against women and children (VAW/C) in Canada, in Argentina, France, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States, as well as an increase of over 30 percent in helpline calls in Singapore and Cyprus. This blog explores VAW/C during the pandemic. [Source: Persons Against Non-State Torture].

Policy brief: gender-based violence (GBV) and COVID-19: The complexities of responding to “the shadow pandemic. Landis D. CARE, 2020: This brief highlights the multiple ways in which COVID-19 increases the risk of exposure to gender-based violence for women and girls, and creates new challenges with regard to service access and utilization. (Source: CARE USA).

Brief: Gender-based violence and COVID-19. UNDP. 2020: This briefing note provides concrete actions and strategies that UNDP, UN agencies and other development partners can take to prevent and address gender based violence (GBV) in the context of COVID-19. It includes recommendations for adapting dedicated GBV services and support to the crisis context, and for mainstreaming GBV prevention and response in ‘non-GBV specific’ interventions. (Source: UNDP).

Ethical considerations for evidence generation involving children on the COVID-19 pandemic. Berman G. UNICEF Office of Research: Innocenti Discussion Papers. DP 2020-01: This paper identifies key ethical considerations when undertaking evidence generation involving children during the mitigation stage of the pandemic (emergency phase), on subject matter relating to COVID-19 once the pandemic has been contained, and once containment policy measures, including lockdowns, have been lifted (post-emergency phase). (Source: UNICEF IRC).

Covid-19 and reproductive health: What can we learn from previous epidemics? Black B, McKay G. BMJ. 2020: As the covid-19 global pandemic progresses, we must continue to take care of the sexual and reproductive health needs of affected populations. The lessons learnt from recent epidemics around the world can teach us in advance how best we go about doing this. (Source: BMJ).


Violence against women during covid-19 pandemic restrictions. Roesch E, Arin A, Gupta J, Garcia-Moreno C. BMJ. 369, m1712, 2020: As the covid-19 pandemic intensifies, its gendered effects have begun to gain attention. Though data are scarce, media coverage and reports from organisations that respond to violence against women (VAW) reveal an alarming picture of increased reports of intimate partner violence during this outbreak, including partners using physical distancing measures to further isolate affected women from resources. This article offers strategies on how to respond to VAW during COVID19 pandemic restrictions. [Source: BMJ].

Feminist Response to COVID-19: This webpage outlines key principles and resources for a just and resilient recovery from the ongoing global pandemic.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Preventing violence against women and girls is more critical now than ever. We can use this time to build connections, relationships, and solidarity – even while social distancing. Further, the pandemic highlights the importance of prioritizing wellbeing and care practices, as individuals, organizations, and movements. COVID-19 is providing an opportunity for us to focus on what is essential – our interdependence on one another and our ability to overcome adversity. This requires leadership from organizations, community leaders, and community members and a collective commitment that together, we truly are stronger." - Lori Michau, Co-Founder Raising Voices

COVID-19 AND GBV-RELATED RESOURCES

Blog: Should I start a new relationship after domestic violence? Lisa Aronson Fontes: With the extreme stresses of COVID-19 and social distancing, it is easy to crave a relationship that will make all the pain go away. Some survivors of domestic violence want another chance at love. Some feel lost when they separate from the partner who abused them, missing the companionship that even a controlling relationship provided. They may long deeply for the promise of love and protection that the abuser failed to provide.

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Please note, to obtain a full copy of a journal article you may write to the author given as the contact person by the respective publishing house to request a copy.


Understanding intimate partner violence perpetration involving the deaf population. Mastrocinque J.M, Cerulli C, Thew D, Chin N.P, Pollard R.O, J Interpers Violence. ePub, 2020: This study explores the social context of intimate partner violence perpetration involving the deaf population through interviews with deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals who self-identified as perpetrating either physical or sexual abuse in an intimate relationship where at least one partner was deaf. [Source: SAGE Journals].


Research Priorities for COVID-19 survey: The aim of this survey is to seek the opinion of researchers globally as to the top priorities for COVID-19 research in their country and region. Several major international research funding organisations are planning further calls to respond to the current COVID-19 pandemic. To ensure their funding decisions will address critical global knowledge gaps, The Global Health Network in partnership with the African Academy of Sciences and UK Collaborative on Development Research are asking for your help to make certain current research priorities are globally correct, appropriate and applicable. For more information and to complete the survey visit https://oxford.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/research-priorities-for-covid-19. The survey closes on Monday 18 May at 10:00 am (BST).

Gap analysis of GBV programming in humanitarian settings: Elrha’s Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF) is working with the Global Women’s Institute (GWI) at the George Washington University to undertake a gap analysis of GBV programming in humanitarian settings. They are requesting that organizations share documentation on their GBV programming approaches (including GBV prevention, response and risk mitigation programming as well as programs from any sector that have a GBV component) and recent needs assessment results that examine GBV in humanitarian settings to hifgapanalysis@gmail.com by 31st May 2020.

Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub: The Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub (RSH) is a new programme that aims to support organisations in the aid sector to strengthen their safeguarding policy and practice against Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEAH). It is funded by the UK Department for International Development, and has a global outreach. RSH’s online platform will be launching on 1 June 2020, you are invited to explore the Hub and become part of a community of practice. In the meantime, you can find out more and subscribe to receive newsletters and updates by visiting the landing page at safeguardingsupporthub.org.
BLOGS

Do the best academics fly more? Seth Wynes. 21 June 2019: In this post Seth Wynes argues that beyond a certain level there is no clear relationship between the amount of travel undertaken by academics and the quality of their research in terms of productivity and the production of high quality papers. And, that as universities face increasing demands to reduce greenhouse emissions, they should look to ways to manage academic travel more efficiently and equitably. [Source: LSE Blog].

PODCASTS

Episode 63: The push to end violence against women in the Asia Pacific: Public health researchers Dr Henriette Jansen and Dr Kristin Diemer join host Ali Moore to discuss the quest to understand the dimensions of violence against women, and programs aimed at bringing about lasting change. [Source: Asia Institute of the University of Melbourne].

#SheToo podcast tackles violence against women in the Bible (2019): #SheToo, a seven-part audio series exploring some of the biblical texts that include violence against women. [Source: Eternity News].

ONLINE RESOURCES


Women and girls safe spaces: A toolkit for advancing women’s and girls’ empowerment in humanitarian settings. International Medical Corps and International Rescue Committee. 2020: This toolkit can be implemented in humanitarian settings brought on by natural disasters or conflict at the onset of an emergency, throughout the relief and recovery phases of humanitarian responses, as well as in development settings with large populations of internally displaced or refugee women and girls. [Source: GBV AoR].

Surveying on sensitive topics: using Audio Computer Assisted Self-Interviewing. Cullen C, Mahmud M: There are innovative ways to gather sensitive information that can reduce reporting bias and safeguard respondents. To increase a respondent’s privacy when answering sensitive survey questions, an alternative method to face-to-face interviewing can be used: Audio Computer Assisted Self-Interviewing (ACASI). [Source: Mind and Behaviour].

The WHAVE Podcast Paper #3. Equal partners: recognising the expertise of women living with HIV: In this brief, the authors focus on the importance of recognising women living with HIV as equal partners – in research, policy-making, programming and deliver. [Source: Salamander Trust].

WEBINARS

Facilitating gender transformation: Finding, training and supporting community facilitators to prevent violence against women, 19 May 2020, 14:30 Nairobi: This webinar will discuss best practices in selecting, training and supporting community facilitators to prevent violence against women. [Source: Salamander Trust].

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES & GRANTS


EVENTS

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VACANCIES

community facilitators for transformative programming to prevent violence against women. The webinar will include case studies from Timor-Leste’s KOKOSA! programme, and from Indashyikirwa in Rwanda. Register [online].

- **Choice in her hands: Enabling safe self-care during COVID-19, 19 May 2020, 8:00 - 9:15am EST**: Join speakers from FP2020, Population Services International, Corona Management Systems, Nigeria and Marie Stopes International to discuss some of the challenges facing women under COVID-19 and the role self-care can play in getting reproductive healthcare into the hands of women. Register [online].

- **From theory to practice: Shifting the perception of peer norms in group-based interventions, 20 May 2020, 15:00 - 16:00 BST**: Much has been written about social norms and the important influence they have on our behaviour, however less guidance is available about how to develop intervention activities that deliberately aim to shift social norms. This practical and interactive webinar aims to address this gap, and bridge what we know about social norms theory and its intentional application in the development of curriculum-based activities. Register [online].

- **HSRC seminar series: Transgender women and HIV in South Africa, 26 May 2020, 12:30-2pm SAST**: Transgender women (TGW) constitute an extremely vulnerable, stigmatized and hidden community in South Africa. Stigma and transphobic responses make transwomen more vulnerable, so they constitute a key population for HIV infection a participatory approach, in the cities of Cape Town, Pretoria and East London. Join the webinar to learn more.

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**NEWS**

*Protecting women’s reproductive health during the pandemic*, IPS News, 12 May 2020.

*Has it become too dangerous to measure violence against women?* DeveX, 6 May 2020.

*In a victory for women in Sudan, female genital mutilation is outlawed*, New York Times, 30 April 2020.


*Here’s how to achieve gender equality after the pandemic*, World Economic Forum, 26 April 2020.

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**Violence against women and violence against children are global issues that require coordinated evidence-based responses and prevention programmes**

**Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI)**

The SVRI is the world’s largest network on research on violence against women and violence against children, providing a space where global role players in the field connect with one another, share and promote their research, work to influence policies and practice, particularly in low and middle income countries. [SVRI Strategic Plan 2020-2024](https://www.svri.org/strategic-plan).

Email [svri@svri.org](mailto:svri@svri.org) by Wednesday each week if you would like to include something in the SVRI Update.

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