Sexual Violence Research Initiative
SVRI Grant - Guidelines

Strengthening the evidence base for primary prevention of sexual and intimate partner violence in low and middle income countries

General Introduction

The SVRI is requesting proposals for novel research or research related activities initiated by a researcher at a recognized research institution that will strengthen the evidence base for the prevention of sexual and intimate partner violence in low and middle income countries.

Due to high levels of competition and limited funds available, the quality of the proposal submitted will determine success in your funding application. Applicants based at legally constituted research institutions, or organisations that have existing research capacity, with high quality proposals are most likely to be successful in this category.

Eligibility of Applicants

Applicants for support under this grant should be either permanently employed at a recognized, legally constituted research institution or non-government organisation with existing research capacity, or be in a long term contract (at least for the duration of the project).

Only one proposal will be considered for funding per individual applicant and once granted, only one such grant may be held by an individual until the project has been completed. SVRI grants applications that are proposing work on behalf of commercial entities will not be considered.

Nature of Supported Research and / or Research Related Activities

All projects under this call should focus on building the evidence base for the prevention of sexual and intimate partner violence in low and middle income countries.

Types of projects that may be supported through this call for proposals include:

- Small, self-contained research projects that are either stand alone or fit within a larger project which will build on, or support primary prevention of intimate partner violence (IPV), including formative research studies, pilot or feasibility studies.
• Qualitative studies to better understand the mechanisms of change of effective IPV primary prevention interventions
• Secondary analysis of existing data
• Development of methods and tools for IPV prevention research
• Research translation and uptake strategies
• Evaluating how to effectively scale up tested IPV primary prevention interventions
• Costing of interventions

If the funds are sought for secondary analysis of data, scale up or dissemination activities, the application must provide sufficient information to enable the scientific quality of the original study to be assessed as well as a description of the activities for which funds are requested.

Information on previous SVRI Grant winners is available online here: http://www.svri.org/grant.htm#overview

Project Length and Duration

The projects supported under this grant should be for a maximum of 12 months duration, and the grant is expected to cover all, or the majority of, the project costs. The common characteristic of these grants is the provision of limited funding for a short period of time with a clear measurable outcome. Grants to a maximum of USD100,000 may be awarded. Any applications exceeding this amount will not be considered.

SVRI Guiding Principles for Research

Research supported by the SVRI should:

• Be guided by the Sexual Violence Research Agenda
• Be conceptualized within a human rights framework with a focus on resource poor-settings;
• Strive to be cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary;
• Endeavour to engage the community that is being researched,
• Include positive approaches that recognize victims’/survivors’ strengths and promote positive change for sexual violence survivors;
• Inform policy, programmes and services and serve to strengthen access to comprehensive care and support for sexual violence survivors
• Challenge the gender hierarchy that contributes to sexual violence in order to promote gender equity.

Types of Violence

The focus of this grant is on building evidence for the primary prevention of intimate partner violence, non-partner violence and the prevention of violence against children as a mechanism for preventing future perpetration and victimisation.
Understanding Primary Prevention

The following graphic provides an overview of the different levels of prevention.

Using this framework, primary prevention interventions aim to address underlying causal factors or drivers of SIPV, such as gender inequality, problematic social constructions of gender, and a prevailing “culture of violence” (or the normative use of interpersonal violence), in an effort to prevent the violence before it starts. For more information on SVRI’s work on primary prevention visit: http://www.svri.org/primaryprevention.htm.

Eligible Countries and Organisations

- **Low and Middle Income Countries**: All organisations based in low and middle income countries (as classified by the World Bank), and organisations not based in low and middle income countries but working in such countries are eligible to apply.

- **Track Record**: Priority will be given to organisations with a track record of research on sexual and intimate partner violence, and particularly on primary prevention of such violence, in low and middle income countries.

- **Institutions Only**: Awards will only be made to institutions and not to individuals. All non-profit organisations are eligible to apply, including academic, research, NGOs, governments, UN Agencies and other international organisations.

- **Number of Proposals**: An organisation may submit a maximum of two applications but no organisation will receive more than one grant.

- **Partnerships**: Partnerships between multiple organisations are encouraged, for example, a local NGO and an academic institution.
Application Process, Review and Assessment of Proposals

Application process:
The SVRI will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) inviting colleagues to apply for funding. Applicants should submit an application after they have considered the above requirements and assessed whether their research proposal is suitable for support under this call.

All applications must be submitted via the SVRI/MRC Grants online system, and reach the SVRI/MRC by midnight (South African time) on the 9th February 2015.

Only applications submitted via the online system before the giving closing date and time will be considered.

Please try and submit well before the deadline. The SVRI and Proposal Central cannot be held responsible for delays in internet connectivity.

Registering your institution:
If you are a first time user of proposalCENTRAL you must first register your before you can proceed with your application. To do so you must:

- Go to https://proposalcentral.altum.com
- Select “First Time Users – Register”
- Complete the registration page.
- Create your own Username, password and challenge question for your user account.
- Click “SAVE” when done.
- The registration confirmation screen will confirm your new account has been created. For security purposes, you will receive a confirmation number by e-mail which you must enter when you log in the first time.

Contact Proposal Central at pcsupport@altum.com if you experience any difficulties with this process.

Filling in the online form:

- **Graphics and tables:** The online application form cannot accept graphics and tables. Any graphics and tables must be uploaded as attachments.
- **CVs of Key Personnel:** Please provide CVs of all personnel who will be working on this project using the CV template provided.
- **Project Plan:** A project plan must accompany the application. Again, please use the template provided.
- **Budget:** Applicants should provide a 12 month budget in USD using the online application form. The budget should be a definitive line-item budget for all direct costs, and administrative or indirect costs, and must exclude capital expenditure; general operating support; U.S.-based activities; and any lobbying activities. Overhead should be no more than 15% of total costs and the total cost of the proposal should not exceed $USD100,000 including overhead). Proposals requesting more than the stipulated maximum will be rejected at point of receipt.

The extent of individual cost items should match the scope of the project, reflect real or estimated cost burdens, and not be padded.

Please use the following guidelines to calculate personnel costs:
Personnel (employee): calculate the employee daily rate using the person’s annual salary inclusive of fringe benefits (e.g. pension, medical aid etc.) divided by 260.

Personnel (consultant): the daily cost of the consultant to your institution.

The budget must be accompanied by a budget narrative. More details on how to fill in the budget and budget narrative are provided on the online form.

- **Saving your work:** Please remember to save your work before moving on to the next page. Also note that you cannot edit in print format. Any changes made whilst you are in print view will not be saved.

- **Submitting your proposal:** Please note, your proposal has not been submitted if you do not receive a confirmation email from proposal central confirming you have submitted your proposal. Please check with proposal Central if you are uncertain if your proposal has been submitted.

- **Assistance with your online application:** Your questions and concerns can be directed to proposal Central Customer Service by email to pcsupport@altum.com. Follow-up questions can be directed to proposalCentral’s customer service line 800 875 2562 (Toll-free U.S. and Canada) or +1 703 964 5840 (Direct Dial International).

**Review process:** Once the proposal has been received by the SVR it will be processed by the SVRI Secretariat, and peer reviewed by an expert review committee. Feedback on grants will be received within 3-4 months of application.

**Peer review criteria and scoring of proposals:** Peer reviewers are asked to review a proposal according to a set criteria as well as specific questions under each criterion. In submitting a proposal for funding, applicants should make every effort to ensure that the proposal address these aspects. The criteria and questions are outlined below.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>What reviewer has to comment on</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall merit</strong></td>
<td>Will the project build evidence for primary prevention of sexual and intimate partner violence in low and middle income countries? Is the research / project likely to succeed with respect to the qualifications of the project team, the institution within which the project is housed?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research / project design and methods</strong></td>
<td>Is the design / method sound, feasible and relevant to the questions being asked? Is the approach proposed appropriate and likely to accomplish the project goal and outcomes? Are potential problems recognised and addressed with alternative approaches?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Significance of the proposed project</strong></td>
<td>Will the project build research capacity, technical skill and knowledge in the field of primary prevention of IPV/SV? Will the project advance basic theoretical concepts, improve or enhance policy and practice in the field of IPV/SV primary prevention? Does the application build on current knowledge in the field? Does it challenge and seek to shift current research or approaches to policy and practice by utilising sound theoretical concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools or interventions? If relevant to the project - does the project provide a clear theory of change? Will the project contribute to solving barriers to progress in the field?</td>
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**Project manager / team**  
Is the training and experience of the project manager and team appropriate for the project or activity? Is there sufficient expertise and level of accomplishments within the team/institution to generate confidence in success?

**Ethical considerations**  
Will human subjects be utilised in the project? If so, will they be appropriately protected from potential research risk? Will the project be conducted in a professional manner, in accordance with the applicable industry standards, and ethical guidelines, including but not limited to: *Putting Women First: Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Research on Domestic Violence Against Women*, Department of Gender and Women’s Health Family and Community Health. World Health Organization. 1999; *Researching Violence against Women*: A Practical Guide for Researchers and Activists. World Health Organization and Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH) 2005; *Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Research on Perpetration of Sexual Violence*. Jewkes R, Dartnall E and Sikweyiya Y. SVRI and Medical Research Council South Africa, 2012.

Upon consideration of the above criteria and specific questions, peer reviewers will score the quality of the proposal and make recommendations on fundability.

**Overall Timeline for Processing Proposals for Funding**

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<th>Steps or actions</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Call / request for proposals</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closing date for applications</td>
<td>9th February 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer review process</td>
<td>Mar – April 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acceptance of grants by grantees</td>
<td>May 2015</td>
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**Application Checklist (incomplete applications will not be considered)**

- Completed SVRI/MRC online application (including project outcomes and budget)
- Completed and signed SVRI/MRC Grant Approval Form
- CVs of key personnel using the template provided
- Project Plan using template provided
- References
- Appendices (if required)

**RFP information summary:**

- *Level of award*: up to a maximum of $100,000 will be awarded.
- *Period of award*: grants are tenable for up to 12 months.
• **Closing date for applications:** 9th February 2015 at 11:59:59pm South African Standard Time (4:59:59pm EST).

• **Further information:**
  o technical aspects of this call: svri@mrc.ac.za
  o online application process: pcsupport@altum.com

• **Method of application:** Applications must be submitted online https://proposalcentral.altum.com/ (Grant Maker South African Medical Research Council / SVRI)

• Only proposals submitted via the Proposal Central website before the given closing date and time will be considered.