

Sexual Violence Research Initiative



SVRI Background

- **Why Sexual Violence?**
 - **Profound violation of human rights**
 - **Most common but least punished form of sexual assault in the world**
 - **Priority public health problem low on the agenda of policy makers, funders**
 - **Severely under resourced / under researched**
 - **Most knowledge gained from developed settings, work with women survivors**
- **Launched in 2003 to create a network of committed researchers, policy makers, donors and activists**
- **Project of the Global Forum for Health Research**
- **Initially hosted by WHO before moving to the Gender and Health Research Unit, Medical Research Council, South Africa**



SVRI Structure and Management

- **Funders: World Bank/GFHR, Ford Foundation, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation**
- **Secretariat: Secretary, Programme Officer, Researcher, Administrator**
- **Coordinating Group: 9 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**
 - **SVRI eSurvey - <http://www.svri.org/esurvey/>**



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



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**



Performance and Progress

- **SVRI Website: a learning tool for researchers**
- **SVRI List-serv and Discussion Forum: platforms for global exchange**
- **SVRI Resources and Publications**
- **Networks and Partnerships**
- **Building Capacity**



SVRI Website

- **Central resource for SVRI members and website visitors:**
 - **Activities**
 - **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**
 - **Research Tools**
 - **Country Pages: 109 country pages with resources, publications, links and news articles**
 - **Links: donors**
 - **Calendar of Events**
 - **Updated weekly**
 - **HON accreditation**



Sexual Violence Research Initiative

The SVRI is an Initiative of the Global Forum for Health Research • Hosted by the South African Medical Research Council

About us

Countries

Join

Links

Events Calendar

FAQs

Site Search

Activities

SVRI Activities
Bi-weekly Circulars
Discussion Forum
Publications
Research Agenda
Promoting Research
SVRI Annual Report

Issues

General Documents
Health Effects
Sexual Violence and HIV
Human Rights
SV against Children
SV in Conflict Settings
Research Ethics
Trafficking
People with Disabilities
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



Population Council



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



ENGLISH | ESPAÑOL

SVRI

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Funders

Global Forum
for Health Research
HELPING CLOSE THE 10/100 GAP
FORD FOUNDATION

Hosted by



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

SVRI Listserv and Discussion Forum

o SVRI Listserv:

“The updates are so informative. Many I also archive and save for future reference. It is the most useful and well constructed list I have ever belonged to.”

- Moderated forum
- 1085 members from 80 different countries
- Two updates circulated weekly:
 - SVRI Update: resources, articles, events, jobs, funding opportunities
 - SV in the News
- To join email: svri@mrc.ac.za

o Discussion Forum

- Platform for online discussions / networking
- Not moderated
- Five discussions are currently taking place on the Forum.
 - * *Strengthening sexual violence advocacy initiatives through research*
 - * *Initiation Schools and Violence*
 - * *What Campus Rape Crisis? Mary Koss's Response*
 - * *Medico-legal care for sexual assault survivors*
- To view these discussions, comment or create your own please visit:
<http://www.svri.org/activities.htm#svri>



SVRI Resources and Publications

o Sexual Violence Research Agenda

- Framework for SVRI activities
- Focus attention on and funnel limited resources to redress knowledge gaps:
 - Assist researchers to identify study questions in areas of highest need
 - Assist donors in shaping funding programmes based on research gaps and priorities;
 - Promote best use of limited resources
 - Inform the development of responsive and effective sexual violence services, prevention and advocacy programmes
- Translated into Spanish and Chinese
- <http://www.svri.org/agenda.pdf>



SVRI Resources and Publications

o Desk Reviews:

- **The uses and impacts of medico-legal evidence in sexual assault cases: a global review.** Du Mont, J. & White, D., **Sexual Violence Research Initiative, World Health Organisation, 2007**: This review provides a global overview of the uses and impacts of medico-legal evidence in cases of sexual assault of adolescents and adults.
<http://www.svri.org/medico.pdf>
- **Women Victim's Perceptions and Responses to Rape, unpub**: The review examines the societal factors that influence rates of sexual violence, women's immediate and long-term responses to such violence, including a range of health-related harms, and the interventions and treatments developed to respond to the concerns of survivors of sexual violence and reduce its prevalence.



Resources and Publications

o Desk Reviews:

- **Sexual Violence against Women and Children in China by Chan K.L., Sexual Violence Research Initiative, 2007:** This review documents current literature on gender-based violence with a particular focus on sexual violence and assault in China, including mainland China and Hong Kong. Full document is available online at: <http://www.svri.org/chinese.pdf> exec summary in Chinese: <http://www.svri.org/chinesesummary.pdf>
- **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:** The purpose of this webpage is to provide visitors with a comprehensive package of programme evaluation tools and methods for sexual violence projects and services. Rather than starting from scratch, researchers may draw on the tools from projects conducted throughout the world and can adapt them to the needs of their own programmes and services. Webpage: <http://www.svri.org/evaluation.htm>



Resources and Publications

- **How to Conduct a Situation Analysis of Health Services for Survivors of Sexual Assault: a guide, SVRI, 2006**
 - Provides researchers with steps and tools to undertake a national situation analysis of sexual assault services; Facility check list and Health care provider questionnaire <http://www.svri.org/analysis.htm>

- **Ethics and research on perpetration of sexual violence**
 - The paper highlights that experience and reflection on the ethics of sexual violence research relates more to research with survivors than it does to research on perpetration.
 - Workshop with experts to finalize the guidelines

- **Briefing notes and fact sheets**
 - Research summaries of desk reviews - <http://www.svri.org/mlResearchBrief.pdf>
 - Fact sheet on sexual violence and HIV – <http://www.svri.org/factsheet.pdf>



Build capacity in sexual violence research

- **SVRI Help Desk (svri@mrc.ac.za)**
- **Facilitate access to tools / information via website**
- **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
- **Training workshops: India 2007; Kenya 2008**
- **Ethics meeting: July 2008**



SVRI Forum 2009: research for advocacy & interventions to end sexual violence

o Themes:

- **Preventing sexual violence:** sexual violence is fuelled by global gender inequities – how can we use research to better understand the social and cultural context of sexual violence and develop interventions to build gender equity and challenge men's expectations of sexual power and control over women?
- **Responding to sexual violence:** survivors of sexual violence need high quality multi-sectoral responses – how can we use research to define appropriate and effective responses that meet survivors' needs?
- **Global advocacy:** sexual violence continues to be a stigmatised issue in many circles – how can we use research to force the issue into the global and national policy spot light and ensure it is given the recognition and attention it deserves by policy makers and funders



Networks and Partnerships

- **Members of the SVRI Coordinating Group represent the SVRI internationally and advocates for more research and funding in the area of sexual violence in the many meetings they are invited to attend.**
- **Other partnerships:**
 - **Development Gateway**
 - **Aids Portal**
 - **GBV Prevention Network**
 - **Afro AIDS Info Portal**

Name	Institution	Representation
Prof Jill Astbury	School of Psychology, Victoria University	Oceania
Professor Mary Anne Burke	Global Forum for Health Research	Funder
Dr Claudia Garcia-Moreno	WHO Department of Gender, Women and Health	Global
Alessandra Guedes	Consultant	South America
Dr M.E. Khan	FRONTIERS Programme, for the Population Council	Asia
Dr Nduku Kilonzo	Liverpool VCT, Care & Treatment (LVCT) Kenya	East and Southern Africa
Professor Mary Koss	Restore Programme, University of Arizona	North America
Dr Tandiari Samir	Centre for Development Services, Near East Foundation, Egypt	North Africa
Dr Ia Verulashvili	Women's Center, Georgia	Eastern Europe



SVRI

“Your program is outstanding. 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)

www.svri.org

svri@mrc.ac.za

