Dear SVRI members, partners and friends,

What a year! A difficult year that will forever be known for sadness, anxiety and loss. And yet, having witnessed the creative ways in which people across the world came together to support healthcare workers and each other, also a year with plenty to be thankful for.

As a newly formed independent non-profit, the SVRI worked hard during 2020 to formalise our governance structures. We undertook an extensive selection process which, in case of the Leadership Council, included an invitation to apply, short-listing and interviews.

So, it is with excitement and pride that we announce the SVRI’s Board and Leadership Council.

These smart, wonderful, kind people contribute a multitude of unique experiences and skills in highly relevant fields, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, mental health, social development, human rights, gender studies, epidemiology, medicine, health systems, funding, policy development.

They bring a shared commitment to help the SVRI in effectively contributing to evidence-based global efforts to end violence against women and violence against children through advancement of feminist, woman-centred and rights-based research in low- and middle-income countries.

The SVRI Board

In accordance with the South African policy for NPOs, our Board provides both fiduciary and strategic oversight of the SVRI and is the SVRI’s highest decision-making body. The Board meets at least four times a year to review financials, ensure we are meeting our
donor commitments and delivering on our strategic plan, as well as deliberating on strategic recommendations made by the Leadership Council. We are immensely grateful for the critical work this small, yet effectual and committed group of people do for the field.

**Dr Chi-Chi Undie** is our Board chair and Senior Associate: Reproductive Health Programme, Population Council, Kenya.  
**Nomsa Mokhele**, an experienced chartered accountant and managing director of Molemo Business Solutions, provides guidance on the systems that underpin the work of the SVRI.  
**Craig Harding**, also a chartered accountant and co-director of Insurance Studio Consulting, undertakes financial oversight.  
**Elizabeth Dartnall** is the Executive Director of the SVRI.

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**The SVRI Leadership Council**

The Council is the SVRI’s strategic guide. Truthful to our commitment to diversity and inclusion, these highly proficient and dedicated leaders in the field represent a diverse set of skills and expertise and volunteer their precious time to ensure SVRI’s work advances research on violence against women and violence against children in low- and middle-income countries. The SVRI warmly welcomes the new members of the Leadership Council:

**Professor Emeritus Kumudu Wijewardena**, University Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.  
**Joanna Włodarczyk**, Empowering Children Foundation, Poland.  
**Dr Juan C Rivillas**, Research Director, Profamilia, Colombia.  
**Tesmerelna Atsbeha**, Senior Program Officer, Women’s Rights, Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, USA.  
**Professor Heidi Stöckl**, Director of the Gender Violence & Health Centre, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom.

This group of eminent experts will be joining the current Leadership Council members: Dr Chi-Chi Undie, (Leadership Council co-chair); Alessandra Guedes, UNICEF-Innocenti (Leadership Council co-chair); Dr Claudia Garcia-Moreno, WHO
We are confident that our global SVRI network will find value in working with our leaders. The immense range of their experiences and expertise will help us to champion diversity and inclusivity and strengthen our efforts to decolonise and democratise knowledge-generation on VAW and VAC.

We also look forward to 2021 – and new opportunities to learn from our members and share your knowledge with the broader SVRI network.

For more information on SVRI Leadership Council and Board visit:
https://www.svri.org/content/svri-board
https://www.svri.org/who-we-are/team/current-svri-leadership-council

Contact us: elizabeth@svri.org, www.svri.org

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.