SVRI Board: Re-opening Call for Applications 2022

The SVRI is re-opening our call for applications for a new board member.

The Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) is the world’s largest network on research on violence against women (VAW) and violence against children (VAC), providing a space where global role players in the field connect with one another, share and promote their research, work to influence policies and improve the lives of those who have experienced violence driven by gender inequality. The SVRI does this through funding research, strengthening research capacity, promoting partnerships and influencing change. The SVRI is a feminist, women led, non-profit organisation under South African law. SVRIs Strategic Plan for the period 2020 – 2024 was launched in September 2019. Four key pillars underscore the SVRI strategy:

- **Building evidence:** Through granting making activities, SVRI works to advance evidence and evidence uptake on key priority areas for research on VAW and VAC. Projects are selected through an open call for proposals, guided by clear selection criteria and expert peer review processes. Research priorities for the field are also identified through inclusive, participatory processes facilitated by SVRI and partners.

- **Strengthening capacity:** Strengthening research capacity of grant recipients and SVRI members is central. SVRI delivers annual workshops alongside ongoing support to SVRI research grant recipients. All training is done by researchers and experts, primarily from low and middle-income countries. Funding is also used to support SVRI Forum activities and bursaries.

- **Promoting partnerships:** SVRI plays an important role as a knowledge broker in the field and works to promote discussion, debate, collaboration, innovation, and sharing of insight on what does and does not work. The SVRI holds the SVRI Forum every two-three years providing a global space where delegates build knowledge, expand their network, create collaborations and share knowledge with key decision-makers in the field of violence against women. The SVRI disseminates research resources and materials via a listserv, website and other social networking platforms, and is developing a virtual knowledge exchange platform to provide online opportunities for engagement across sectors.

- **Influencing change:** The SVRI advocates for more and better funding to be made available for research on VAW and VAC in LMICs. This is done through developing tools to guide better funding and raising funds for grant-making.

What we are looking for

We are looking for a dynamic and kind individual with expertise and experience of the NGO sector, especially with regards to developing reserves, growth plans and sustainability, resource mobilisation.

Applicants should:

- have proven resource mobilisation experience and expertise.
- have strong funding networks to assist the SVRI to establish new and strengthen existing relationships with resource partners.
• have passion for and an understanding of the scope of work of the SVRI.
• have experience of organisational growth and development.
• have experience and ability to carry out tasks and roles of the Board.

Role of the Board

• Overseeing the implementation of the strategic, financial and operating plans.
• Overseeing the development by management of a process to identify, manage and monitor the principal risks faced by the SVRI.
• Requiring management to implement and maintain appropriate internal controls and management information systems.
• Appointing an executive director of the SVRI, defining management’s duties and limits of authority, overseeing management’s performance and approving its compensation.
• Overseeing management succession and management development plans.
• Overseeing and approving the SVRI financial annual report and its distribution to internal and external stakeholders.
• Providing oversight of the SVRI’s independent auditors.
• Appointing other committees that the board considers necessary to enable it to carry out its responsibilities effectively and delegating to those committees any of the powers of the board it deems appropriate.
• Adopting, amending, or repealing policies and procedures of the SVRI and monitoring the SVRI’s compliance with those policies and procedures and with its statutory and fiduciary obligations.
• Adopting or amending the SVRI’s code of conduct and monitoring the SVRIs compliance with that code.
• Other decisions that are required to be made by the board, or as may be reserved by the board, to be made by itself and are not otherwise delegated to a committee of the board of directors or to management.

Board Member Term

Board members are appointed for a period of three (3) years.

Time Commitments

The Board normally meets virtually four times a year and holds additional virtual and face to face meetings as needed. The duration of each meeting typically lasts 2-3 hours.

In addition to the quarterly and ad hoc meetings, Board members must allow time for committee meetings, preparatory work, and ensure that they are able to make the necessary overall time commitment. All Board members are expected to have carefully reviewed all Board meeting related materials sent to them for meetings.
Remuneration

Board members serve on a voluntary basis and receive no compensation for serving on the Board. The SVRI, where appropriate, will cover accommodation, meals and travelling expenses (economy class flight), reasonably and properly incurred, and documented to attend annual meetings and the SVRI Forum.

Application Process

Interested candidates must submit:

- An expression of interest / motivational cover letter highlighting evidence of how the candidate demonstrates the required competencies listed above.
- In your cover letter, provide examples of your fund-raising experience and links with funders.
- A Curriculum Vitae showing experience relevant to the Board position, the application and any supporting documents must be submitted in English.
- Applicants who have already applied may re-apply, revising their applications to address the refined criteria.

Applications must be sent by email to Elizabeth Dartnall elizabeth@svri.org no later than 10 March 2022. Interviews with shortlisted applicants will be scheduled as soon as possible.