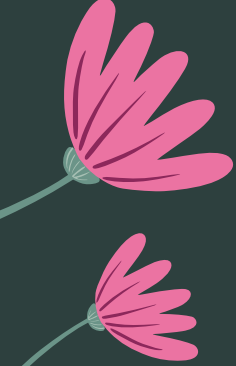


SVRI sexual
violence
research
initiative

2025 2026

Annual Report



SVRI is the largest global network dedicated to advancing research on violence against women, violence against children, and other forms of violence driven by gender inequality.

Vision

We envision a world where women and children in all their diversity live free from violence.

Mission

Our mission is to catalyse a high-impact, collaborative, and nurturing field to advance research on violence against women and violence against children.

Principles

We are guided by six interconnected principles:

-  Collaborative
-  Feminist
-  Equitable
-  Accountable
-  Ethical
-  Intersectional

Strategic Pillars

Our strategic focus is grounded in four key pillars:

- 1. Building and disseminating evidence for change**
- 2. Supporting and strengthening capacity for innovation**
- 3. Creating collective impact through global exchange and partnerships**
- 4. Influencing change**

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01 FOREWORD



This has not been an easy year for the field. Research funding is contracting, political support for gender equality is under pressure in many contexts, and the organisations doing the hardest work are being asked to do more with less or have had their programmes closed. The consequences are concrete. Foundational tools that underpin much of what we know about violence against women and children globally – including the Demographic and Health Survey and the Violence Against Children Survey – are under threat. When those tools disappear, so does our ability to see the problem clearly, track progress, or make the case for investment. The evidence the field depends on is being dismantled at precisely the moment it is needed most.

The field continues the work. Ours is a field of optimists – you cannot do this work if you are not. We believe that violence against women and children is preventable and solvable, and that belief is what keeps researchers, practitioners, and advocates generating evidence, sharing it, and pushing for change even in the hardest conditions. The volume of applications, abstracts, and requests for support that reached SVRI in 2025 tells us that demand is growing, not shrinking.

This report is an account of what SVRI did to meet that moment: the research we funded, the knowledge we built and shared, the communities we convened, and the case we made alongside our partners for why this work matters and must be sustained. We offer it with gratitude to the funders and partners who made it possible, and with a clear-eyed commitment to the work still ahead.

In 2025, we awarded nearly USD 1.4 million in research grants across nine projects spanning technology-facilitated gender-based violence¹, childhood sexual violence, violence in higher education and in the workplace, and access to services for LGBTQ+ communities. We received 663 grant applications, a 60% increase on the previous year, and 2,186 abstracts for SVRI Forum 2026, up 86%. Our membership grew to over 13,600 members, our website reached 174,000 users, and our LinkedIn community crossed 50,000 followers. We commissioned evidence gap maps on TFGBV and school-based GBV interventions, launched new research agendas, and made significant progress on the EVAWG Index, a global accountability tool set to launch in July 2026. These figures are signals of a field wanting rigorous, locally led evidence and turning to SVRI to help provide it.

Looking ahead, in line with the research priorities and where SVRI is best placed to make a distinctive contribution we are digging deep into four areas: technology-facilitated gender-based violence, GBV in higher education institutions, faith and GBV, and childhood sexual violence. The SVRI Forum 2026 in Bangkok in October will bring together researchers, practitioners, policymakers and activists from across the globe at a moment when that kind of convening matters more than ever. In 2026 we will finalise new capacity strengthening and advocacy strategies, becoming more deliberate about ensuring that the evidence we generate and curate travels beyond publication into the policy and funding decisions that shape this field.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Dartnall', located below the text of the Executive Director's message.

Elizabeth Dartnall
Executive Director

¹ SVRI primarily uses the terms violence against women (VAW) and violence against children (VAC) in all their diversity. However, in certain contexts such as technology-facilitated violence, we use 'gender-based violence' (GBV) as a more inclusive term that reflects the heightened risk of harm faced by LGBTQI+ individuals online, and better captures the full spectrum of those affected by gender-related harm.

02 MADE POSSIBLE BY...



This report is, in many ways, a reflection of what becomes possible when funders, partners, and a global network share not just resources, but vision. We know this has not been an easy year. Shrinking aid budgets, shifting political landscapes, and growing pressure on development and research funding have placed real constraints on the organisations that sustain this field. That our funders continue to invest in the long-term work of ending violence against women and children, even in this climate, is something we do not take for granted.

What we want to name clearly is the support that goes beyond the grant itself. Our funders have championed our work in rooms we were not in,

opened doors to conversations and coalitions we could not have accessed alone, and advocated for the importance of this work when its value has been most contested. Our partners have brought expertise, reach, and commitment that multiplies what SVRI can do. And our network of over 13,600 members is not a passive audience – it is an active community of researchers, practitioners, and advocates who generate, share, and apply knowledge in ways that extend our reach far beyond what any single organisation could achieve.

That collective force is what makes this work possible. We offer this report as an account of what it has produced, and as a renewed commitment to making that investment count.



03

+60%

663

Applications received for the SVRI Research Grant 2026



Almost 1 million USD distributed in 9 grants

39

Applications received for the Early Career Research Fellowships



+86%

2,186

SVRI Forum 2026 abstracts



+15%



13,616

SVRI members

+44%



174,000

Website users

+25%



+ 50,000

LinkedIn followers

+6.5%



16,290

Total podcast plays to date

2025 IN NUMBERS



1,260

Registrations to our online courses

+14%



31

Webinars hosted



20

Publications

+83%



44

Blogs



+2500

Requests through our Help Desk

04 LEARNING AND IMPACT IN 2025



2025 was a year that tested the field and tested us. Here is what we learned and what we did about it.

Research Grants Impact a Whole Ecosystem

SVRI grants do not just generate evidence. They build careers, shift policy, attract follow-on funding, and change what is possible for the organisations we work with. When SVRI invested in [LAB-CO](#) and [ProSociedad's CORE Model \(Building Relationships\)](#) in Mexico, we were funding a research project. What followed was something larger. [Building on the evidence](#) generated through the SVRI-funded phase, the team secured additional funding from the Fund for Innovation in Development and engaged government institutions in Jalisco – including the Directorate General for Crime Prevention and the municipal government of Tlajomulco – to begin scaling the model within public systems. The next phase will reach 216 participants across 18 groups, delivered by institutional partners using their own personnel.

“The support of SVRI has not only been technical, but they have also supported us with a community and network, bringing an intersectional and ethical approach that has helped us achieve these transformations.”
– Isaac Retana, CORE Model, Mexico

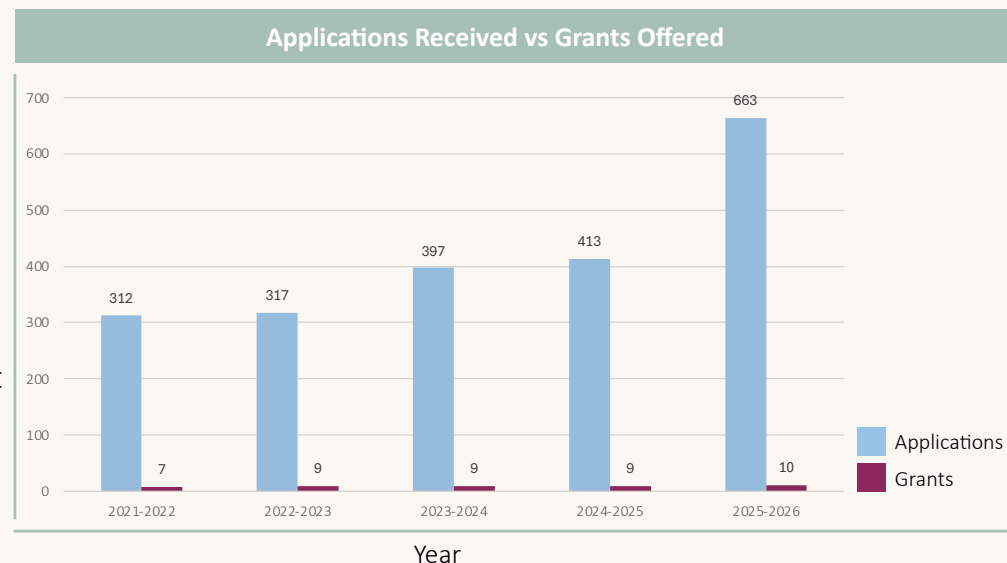
This is one example among many. Across our grant portfolio in 2025, partners filled critical evidence gaps, influenced national policy, attracted larger follow-on investments, and elevated research on communities that remain underrepresented in the global literature. A research team in Armenia laid the [groundwork](#) for the country's first population-based study on child sexual exploitation and abuse. A team in Nepal piloted a [therapeutic intervention](#) for families showing early promise in reducing domestic violence and secured

funding for a full randomised controlled trial. Researchers in South Africa generated the [first evidence](#) on how TFGBV impacts women with disabilities. The ripple effects of a well-designed grant extend far beyond the study itself.

 Find out more about SVRI grant-making

Demand Continues to Outpace What We Can Fund

The demand in the field for research far outpaces the funding available. In 2025, demand for SVRI's grant funding grew by 60%, with 663 applications received for our open research grant, and 202 for our new stream focused on GBV in higher education institutions in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields. Of these, we were only able to fund 10, or 1.5%.



Researchers and practitioners across Africa, Asia, Latin America, the MENA region, and Eastern Europe are motivated, equipped, and ready to generate the evidence this field needs. Our job is to keep finding ways to fund more of this work.


The [Early Career Research Fellowships](#) were piloted in 2025 with support from the [Kering Foundation](#), backing doctoral and postdoctoral researchers affiliated with LMIC institutions to conduct research on the intersections between violence against women and violence against children. We received 39 applications. The model is promising and the demand is clear.



“When we stop counting, we stop seeing – a reminder that evidence is not just data; it’s visibility and accountability.”
– Elizabeth Dartnall, Executive Director, SVRI

Change Takes Time and Investment in Relationships

Our work in Sri Lanka is a good example of what sustained engagement with government partners can produce. In 2025, the Family Health Bureau’s Technical Advisory Committee formally endorsed the project and established an expert group to provide ongoing technical oversight, bringing together senior officials and subject matter experts from across the FHB. That kind of institutional endorsement takes time to earn. It is the product of working within national systems, building relationships gradually, and letting national partner’s lead.

 [Learn more about the project](#)

Getting Evidence to Those Who Need It

Generating evidence is only part of the job. In 2025 we invested deliberately in making the best available evidence easier to find, understand, and use-for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers working across very different contexts.

We commissioned evidence gap maps on [technology-facilitated GBV](#) and [school-based GBV](#), each designed to give stakeholders a clear picture of what works and where the gaps are. Both are available as interactive dashboards on the SVRI website, where users can filter by type of violence, geography, and intervention type.

We delivered [31 webinars](#) reaching researchers and practitioners globally, including high-demand sessions on research design, abstract writing, and the latest evidence on emerging topics. Our [podcast](#) reached 16,290 total plays across all seasons, with episodes on masculinity and the manosphere, conflict-related sexual violence, and GBV in LGBTQ+ communities among the most listened. Our [online courses](#) attracted 1,260 registrations, including a new course on participatory approaches in childhood sexual violence research developed with partners in the field.

These are all part of a deliberate strategy to ensure that evidence travels – from research into practice, from practice into policy, and from global conversations into local action.

Deepening Our Work in Four Critical Areas

Much of what we learned in 2025 came from going deeper in four areas where the evidence base is growing but the need for coordinated effort remains acute.

1. Childhood Sexual Violence

[The Safe Futures Hub](#), an initiative between SVRI, [Together for Girls](#), and [WeProtect Global Alliance](#), launched a [Practice-Based Knowledge \(PbK\) Guidance Framework](#) developed with over 100 stakeholders and available in English, Spanish, and French. A global webinar series brought researchers, practitioners, and advocates together to engage with the evidence and support its application in programming and policy. We also completed a [rapid review of outcome measurement](#) in CSV prevention drawing on 362 primary studies – a practical resource for anyone designing or evaluating interventions in this space.

2. Technology-Facilitated GBV

We published an evidence gap map, and the [TFGBV Community of Practice](#) – now approaching 1,000 members – convened six policy dialogues in collaboration with UN Women, bringing together voices from government, research, digital rights, and online safety. Also together with UN Women we published a [compendium](#) of emerging global practices on preventing and responding to TFGBV.

3. GBV in Higher Education Institutions

We launched a [new research agenda](#) and a dedicated funding stream, receiving 202 applications in the first cycle, and we will support seven research grants to generate evidence guided by the research agenda. A new Community of Practice is in development and will launch in 2026.

4. Faith and GBV

Our [Faith & GBV Community of Practice](#) – now over 700 members – completed its first year of working group activity, producing a research report, a practitioner and faith leader toolkit, and an online course. It secured funding for a further year.

Convening the Field

In 2025 SVRI brought together grant partners, researchers, and practitioners across regional gatherings in South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Nairobi. These were working spaces where partners shared what they had learned, identified common challenges, and built the kinds of relationships that sustain collaboration long after the meeting is over. In a year when many international convenings became harder to access, having trusted regional spaces mattered.



South Africa,
October 2025
SADC Regional
Stakeholder Meeting



Sri Lanka,
November 2025
Asia Grant Partner
Meeting



Nairobi,
March 2026
Child Sexual
Violence Meeting

The SVRI Forum 2026

Much of 2025 was also spent preparing for [SVRI Forum 2026](#) in Bangkok in October – the world's largest abstract-driven event on violence against women and children. We received 2,186 abstract submissions from researchers and practitioners across every region, with strong representation from Africa, South and East Asia, and Latin America. That level of engagement reflects both the health of the field and the continued demand for a dedicated space where evidence, practice, and policy can meet.



Why Our Work Matters



SVRI is one of very few organisations globally that funds locally led research on violence against women and children in low- and middle-income countries, builds the capacity of the researchers doing that work, connects them to a global field, and ensures the evidence they generate reaches the people with the power to act on it.

We currently fund less than 2% of what reaches us. The cost of that gap is not just unfunded research. It is policy made without evidence, programmes designed without data, and communities whose experience of violence remains invisible to the systems that should be protecting them.

Violence is preventable. The evidence base that proves it and makes it actionable across diverse contexts exists. It just needs to be built, shared, and used at a scale that matches the problem.

That is what SVRI is here to do.



05 OUR STRATEGY IN ACTION

PILLAR 1

Building and Disseminating Evidence for Change

The SVRI Research Grant

In 2025 we awarded [10 research grants](#) totalling USD 1.36 million, spanning technology-facilitated GBV, childhood sexual violence, GBV in higher education institutions, and access to services for LGBTQ+ communities. Each grant is more than a study. It is an investment in a research team, a community of practice, and a body of evidence that will outlast the grant period itself. In 2025 that investment produced peer-reviewed publications, national media coverage, policy engagement, and follow-on funding across multiple countries and contexts.



Meet the 2025 Research Grant winners

In 2025, our Grant Partners have catalysed change by:

1. Filling critical evidence gaps that inform field priorities and funding decisions: An [ethically robust, culturally appropriate survey](#) in Armenia that laid the groundwork for the country's first population-based research on the prevalence of child sexual exploitation and abuse.

2. Influencing national policies through locally generated, contextually relevant evidence: The [Center for Scientific-Practical Initiatives](#) adapted the [WINGS Programme in Kazakhstan](#) to meet the unique needs of key affected populations of women at the highest risk for experiencing IPV, and worked on policy advocacy to push for the inclusion of marginalised populations in government-funded shelters.

3. Opening funding pipelines by demonstrating proof of concept that attracts larger and longer-term investments: Grant partner LAB-CO and ProSociedad have secured additional funding from Fund for Innovation that support further testing and scaling of the [CORE Model](#) to address male IPV perpetration.

4. Building LMIC research capacity that extends beyond individual grant periods: AMPF in Morocco presented research on reproductive violence at the FIGO World Congress, showcasing LMIC-generated evidence to global SRH leaders.

5. Elevating marginalised voices by documenting experiences often invisible in global research: Grant partners from Stellenbosch University conducted a first of its kind [research study](#) in South Africa that generated evidence to understand how TFGBV impacts women with disabilities.

6. Creating pathways to scale from pilot interventions to rigorously tested solutions: Possible Health (Nepal, 2023) [piloted a culturally sensitive therapeutic intervention](#) for families, showing early promise in reducing domestic violence and depression and secured funding for a full randomised controlled trial.



"Through our practice we knew that intervening with mother-in-laws and husbands is essential to preventing IPV in newly married couples but had no way of proving it. The SVRI grant allowed us to pilot and we test our model, and we are very happy that we could use this data to get further funding to now rigorously test our model."

– Mina Shreshtha, Possible Health Nepal, 2025

What our grant partners have produced in 2025



-  LAB-CO & ProSociedad, Mexico, 2024
-  Zhejiang University School of Medicine, China, 2023
-  Stellenbosch University, South Africa, 2024
-  Possible, Nepal, 2023
-  Astra Foundation for Health Protection and Prevention of Violence, Armenia, 2024
-  Monash University, Indonesia, 2023
-  Social Fund “Center for Scientific and Practical Initiatives”, Kazakhstan, 2022

Amplifying the evidence in local and national media

- LAB-CO & ProSociedad (Mexico, 2024) published findings on interventions with male perpetrators of violence in [Nexos](#), one of **Mexico's leading political journals**.
- Stellenbosch University (South Africa, 2024) **published in national newspapers** on the need for safe online spaces for women with disabilities, with lead researcher Babalwa Tyabashe-Phume also featuring on the [Disability Dialogues podcast](#).
- Lead researcher Astra Foundation (Armenia, 2024) **appeared in a podcast show** by sexologist [Hripsime Grigoryan](#), to present the results of their survey on child sexual abuse.
- Researchers from the University of Botswana (2023) **appeared in national media** to discuss how stigma prevents IPV survivors from seeking help — and what needs to change.

Early Career Research Fellowships

Alongside our core grant programme, we piloted the [Early Career Research Fellowships](#) with support from the Kering Foundation, backing four researchers at LMIC institutions to work on the intersections between violence against women and violence against children. It is a small start, but the model is working and we intend to build on it.

Research Agendas

Our research agendas continued to shape how the field sets priorities and allocates resources. In 2025 we launched two new agendas on [gender-based violence in higher education institutions](#) and [child sexual violence \(CSV\) in low-and middle income countries](#), adding to our growing series that now spans [technology-facilitated gender-based violence](#) (TFGBV), the [intersections of violence against women and children](#), and the [Africa shared research agenda](#) (ASRA). These are not documents that sit on shelves.

Funders including FCDO, IDRC, and UN Women are commissioning research directly aligned with the priorities we have identified. UNICEF, the Safe Futures Hub, and the Moore Centre drew directly on the CSV agenda to develop a concept note on perpetration that has shaped programming at SVRI Forum 2026.

Evidence Gap Maps

We also commissioned evidence gap maps on [technology-facilitated gender-based violence](#) and [school-based gender-based violence](#) available as interactive dashboards on the SVRI website. These are designed to give anyone working in the field – from national policymakers to local programme designers – a clear and accessible picture of what works and where the gaps are.



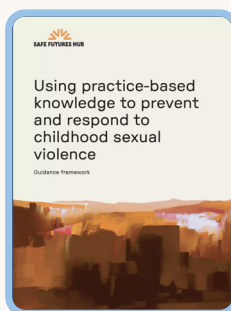
Check the dashboard on TFGBV



Check the dashboard on school-based interventions

Childhood Sexual Violence

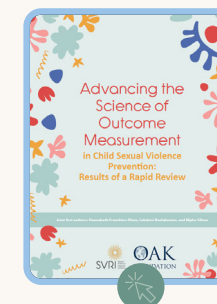
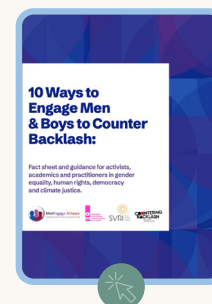
Our work on childhood sexual violence deepened through the Safe Futures Hub. The launch of the [Practice-Based Knowledge \(PbK\) Guidance Framework](#), developed with over 100 stakeholders and available in three languages, was a significant milestone. A [rapid review of outcome measurement in CSV](#) prevention, drawing on 362 primary studies, added a practical resource for the field. And a [new webinar series](#) is bringing researchers, practitioners, and advocates together to engage with the evidence and support its application in practice.



Integrating IPV Prevention into National Health Systems

In Sri Lanka, [our Collaborative Evidence Building for Impact at Scale](#) project reached a significant milestone with formal endorsement from the Family Health Bureau's Technical Advisory Committee. That endorsement, and the establishment of an expert group to provide ongoing oversight, reflects what sustained, relationship-based implementation research can produce. It also generated a second published knowledge exchange on [co-creating implementation research for IPV prevention](#) – a resource for others working to embed evidence within government health systems.

SVRI and Partners' Flagship Reports



SVRI publications



PILLAR 2

Supporting and Strengthening the Capacity for Innovation

A Five-Week Programme for New Grant Partners

All new grant recipients completed a five-week capacity strengthening programme covering ethics, methods, theory of change, safety, collective care, and feminist research practice. Sessions were repeated across time zones to ensure accessibility. We also expanded pre-application support through webinars on research design, abstract writing, and literature review skills, reaching hundreds of researchers globally before they even submitted an application.

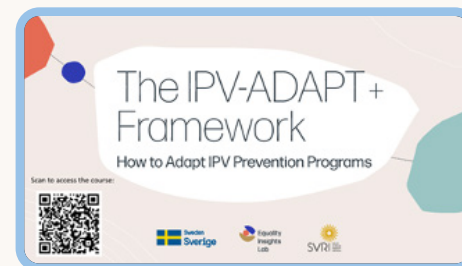
Deep Accompaniment in Practice

Our work with partners in Sri Lanka is the clearest example of what deep accompaniment looks like in practice. From the beginning we made a deliberate choice to work alongside our national partners as genuine collaborators rather than technical advisors. What emerged was reciprocal – SVRI brought research and implementation science expertise, our partners brought deep contextual knowledge that consistently sharpened our own thinking. That relationship has produced results beyond the project itself. The national team's experience with adaptation tools is now featured in the [IPV-ADAPT+ Framework: How to Adapt IPV Prevention Programs](#) online course reaching practitioners globally, and they have been accepted onto a prestigious regional GBV capacity-building programme to build on this work.

New Courses

We added two new courses to our free learning offer in 2025. [The Power of Participation](#) provides training on participatory approaches in childhood sexual violence research, ensuring that children's voices are genuinely centred in the work designed to protect them. The [IPV-ADAPT+ Framework](#)

[course](#) gives practitioners a practical guide to adapting IPV prevention programmes to their own contexts. Both were co-created with partners in the field.








“This course deepened my understanding of what meaningful participation truly looks like when working on childhood sexual violence research. It challenged me to think critically about power, ethics, and responsibility especially the importance of centering children and survivors not as subjects of research, but as active contributors whose voices, experiences, and agency matter.”

– Sylvia Mutunga on [LinkedIn](#)

Webinars

Across 31 webinars – 13% more than in 2024 – we reached researchers, practitioners, and policymakers on topics ranging from the latest evidence on emerging issues to practical skills for grant applicants. The most attended session, an abstract writing workshop for Forum 2026, drew 1,388 registrations with 712 attendees. A session on sexual violence in education settings had an attendance rate of nearly 90%, reflecting demand for credible, accessible knowledge in that area.

5 Top Attended Webinars

Webinar	Number of registrations	Number of participants	Average attendance
 Forum 2026 Abstract Writing Workshop	1388	712	51,30%
 Online Session: What You Need to Know to Apply for the SVRI Research Grant 2026	616	524	85,06%
 SVRI Forum 2026 Launch Webinar	830	489	58,92%
 Sexual Violence in Education Settings: What we know and need to know	336	301	89,58%
 Global Webinars to Launch Bold Solutions to End Childhood Sexual Violence 1	488	294	60,25%

As we move into 2026, we are going back to the field to ask what is needed most, to ensure our capacity strengthening offering continues to be shaped by the people it is designed to serve.



PILLAR 3

Creating Collective Partnership Through Global Exchange and Partnerships

Forum 2026 Abstract Submissions

The response from the field has already exceeded expectations.



2,186

abstract submissions from researchers and practitioners



Geographic spread

Africa 34.7%
South Asia 15.5%
East Asia & Pacific 13.6%

84

panel submissions



193

reviewers from 37 countries

Building the Infrastructure

Behind those numbers is a significant amount of infrastructure and relationship work. Co-hosting has been finalised with UNFPA and UN Women as the UN Joint Programme on GBV Prevention in Southeast Asia, and the DFAT-supported Southeast Asia GBV Prevention Platform. Steering, Organising, and Scientific Committees are in place. Core delivery systems are operational. Programme development is underway, informed by the Forum 2024 evaluation and consultation with the field.

Regional Engagement

Regional engagement has been a priority from the start. We hosted two Forum launches, a learning event supported by the Australian Volunteers Program, and a hybrid engagement in Bangkok with co-hosts and regional stakeholders. [Eight Young Professionals](#) have completed abstract mentoring and submitted abstracts into the formal review process as part of an enhanced Young Professionals Programme.

Wellness and Support

In recognition that Forum participation can be hard on people working in this field, we are collaborating with the Spotlight Initiative and MeToo International on wellness and support services for participants.



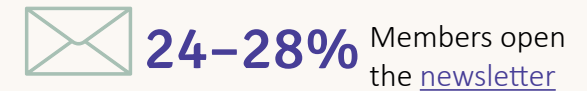
PILLAR 4

Influencing Change

Global Communications

Over the past year, SVRI has seen growing regional and global visibility through four key communications channels that reach and engage a global community committed to ending violence.

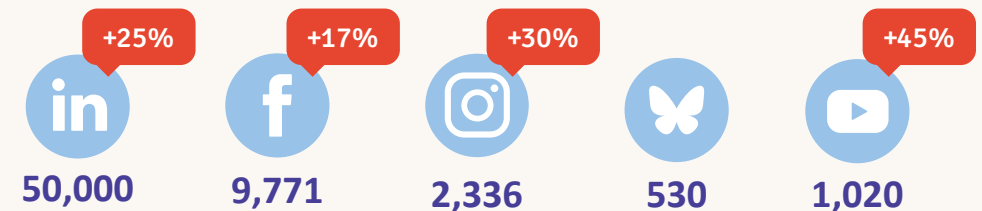
1. The SVRI Update



"The weekly newsletter published by SVRI is such a fantastic and valuable resource and I so often find excellent research that I can incorporate into my work." - SVRI member

2. SVRI Social Media Channels

Through SVRI social media channels, we share the latest evidence, tools and resources from the field – cutting through the noise to offer evidence-based solutions to end violence



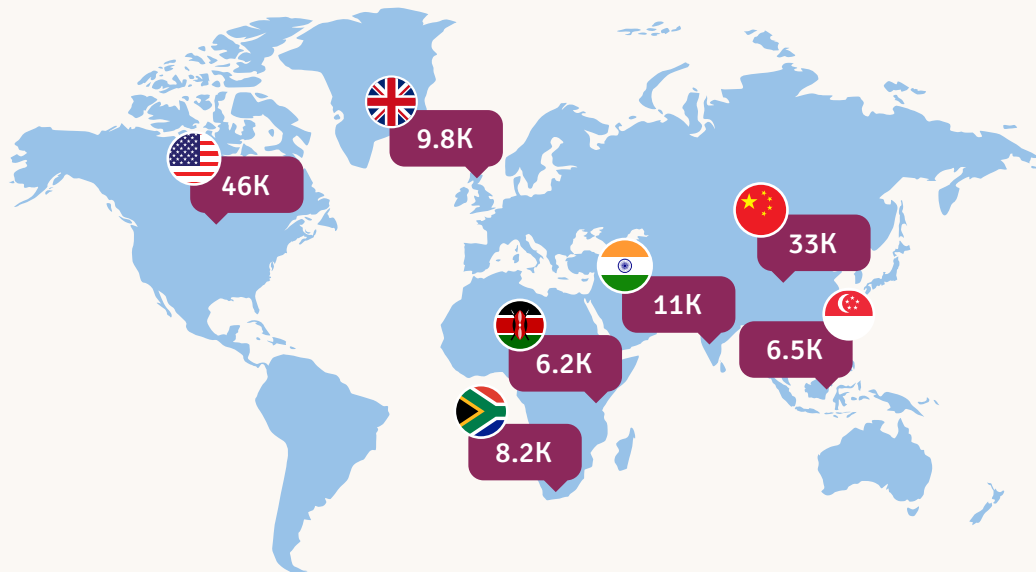
*Data is from the year 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025), compared to the same period in 2024, showed in percentage increase.

3. SVRI Website

From publications and blogs to webinars, podcasts, partnerships and solutions, the SVRI website brings together the latest knowledge, research, and innovation to advance the VAW & VAC field — all in one platform.



Active users per country



[Check out our website](#)

4. The Sexual Violence Research Podcast



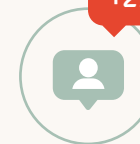
3,421

Plays



714

Hours listened during this cycle



390

New followers



16,290

Total plays across all seasons

[Listen to the podcast](#)

Most listened to episodes:

- ★ Masculinity, Misogyny, and the Manosphere – A Conversation with Gary Barker
439 listens
- ★ Conflict-related Sexual Violence – Centring Survivors
364 listens
- ★ New Tools for Measuring Sexual Violence Interventions
351 listens
- ★ GBV and LGBTQ+ Communities: Addressing the Research Gap
276 listens

“This is a great episode. Gave me a lot to think about!”
– Listener comment from episode one of series four



Advocacy

We maintained a sustained presence at key global moments including CSW 69 and UNGA 80, using those spaces to reinforce the case for ethical, LMIC-led research and to keep evidence in rooms where it is increasingly under pressure. A highlight was co-hosting a panel at the Beijing+30 High-Level Meeting with WHO, the World Bank, and UNICEF, bringing together three decades of evidence on violence against women.

Government representatives from Sweden and the Philippines spoke to how evidence shapes national policymaking – a public

normalisation of the role of science in policy debate at exactly the moment when that role is being contested.

In December, we attended the launch of [ALL In: Global Leaders for Ending Gender-Based Violence](#), an initiative grounded in the premise that violence is preventable and focused on the missing links of coordinated leadership and sustained funding.

Communities of Practice

Our Communities of Practice have become one of the most effective ways SVRI facilitates collective learning and moves evidence into action. The [TFGBV CoP](#), now approaching 1,000 members, convened six policy dialogues in collaboration with UN Women in 2025, bringing together voices from government, research, digital rights, and online safety. It is transitioning to a working group model in 2026 with a dedicated focus on ethical research and measurement, and on policy and advocacy.

The [Faith and GBV CoP](#), with over 700 members, completed its first full year of working group activity, producing a research report, a practitioner and faith leader toolkit, and a course, and securing funding for a further year. A new CoP focused on GBV in higher education institutions is in development and will launch in 2026.

The EVAWG Index

Work continued throughout 2025 on the EVAWG Index, developed with Economist Impact and funded by UN Women. The Index will track progress on the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls across 140 countries and is set for launch in July 2026. It is structured around three pillars – enabling environment, prevention, and response – and is designed to give governments, policymakers, and advocates a rigorous, comparative evidence base at a moment when accountability for commitments on gender equality has never been more important. We anticipate it will become a significant reference point for advocacy, donor prioritisation, and national action planning.



06 LOOKING AHEAD



Building on 2025

This has been a year of real and measurable progress. Grant partners are influencing ministries and education systems. Practitioners are taking evidence into activism and advocacy. Researchers who received SVRI support are attracting follow-on funding, mentoring others, and building institutional credibility that sustains work over the long term. Research agendas are turning into collaborations and proposals, and a growing global community is actively accessing and using the knowledge we generate and curate.

Strengthening our Organisation

As we move into 2026 our focus is on continuing to deliver for the field while strengthening the internal foundations that allow us to do so sustainably. This is not about expansion for its own sake. It is about focus, quality, and long-term effectiveness. Investments in financial management, grant-making systems, risk processes, and staff wellbeing are making SVRI more resilient and accountable, and better placed to support the partners and communities we exist to serve.

Deepening our Focus

We are deepening our work in four areas where the need is most pressing and where SVRI is best placed to make a distinctive contribution: technology-facilitated gender-based violence, GBV in higher education institutions, faith and GBV and childhood sexual violence. In each area we are moving from agenda-setting into sustained engagement – funding research, building communities of practice, developing learning resources, and connecting evidence to the advocates and policymakers who need it most.

Shaping the Field at the Highest Level

Through our advisory role on the ALL In High-Level Expert Group on violence prevention, SVRI's membership of the To-Zero advisory board, the UN Women ACT programme global advisory board, and the MenEngage board, SVRI is helping to shape how prevention and response become embedded in the systems people rely on and how this work gets financed over the long term. We will use those positions to advocate directly for LMIC-led research and locally generated evidence to be built into the architecture of any long-term strategy.

Strengthening our Advocacy

Evidence without advocacy rarely reaches its potential. With a new advocacy strategy in place, SVRI is becoming more intentional about how we use what we know, focusing effort where influence is possible and where our voice adds distinct value. From the UN to regional convenings, from policy dialogues to digital campaigns, we will work to ensure that the research we generate, curate, and amplify does not stop at publication but travels into the rooms and processes where decisions about funding, policy, and practice are made.

Meeting the Funding Challenge Honestly

We cannot close this report without stating plainly what the numbers tell us. SVRI is one of very few organisations globally funding locally led research on violence against women and violence against children in low- and middle-income countries. We currently fund 2% of what reaches us. The cost of that gap is not just unfunded research. It is policy made without evidence, programmes designed without data, and communities whose experience of violence remains invisible to the systems that should be protecting them.

Violence is Solvable

Violence is solvable. This is not an aspiration. It is one of the most significant and underutilised conclusions in the field. The evidence is clear that certain approaches work in reducing violence, in specific contexts and populations. But the evidence base alone cannot complete this agenda.

As we work with partners to develop a collective and costed plan for ending violence in all its forms, we call on those with political power and resources to match the science with the political will and sustained investment it requires.

The objective is not unreasonable: that all people, everywhere, live free from violence. The evidence tells us this is achievable. SVRI will keep working until it is.

KEEP IN TOUCH

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