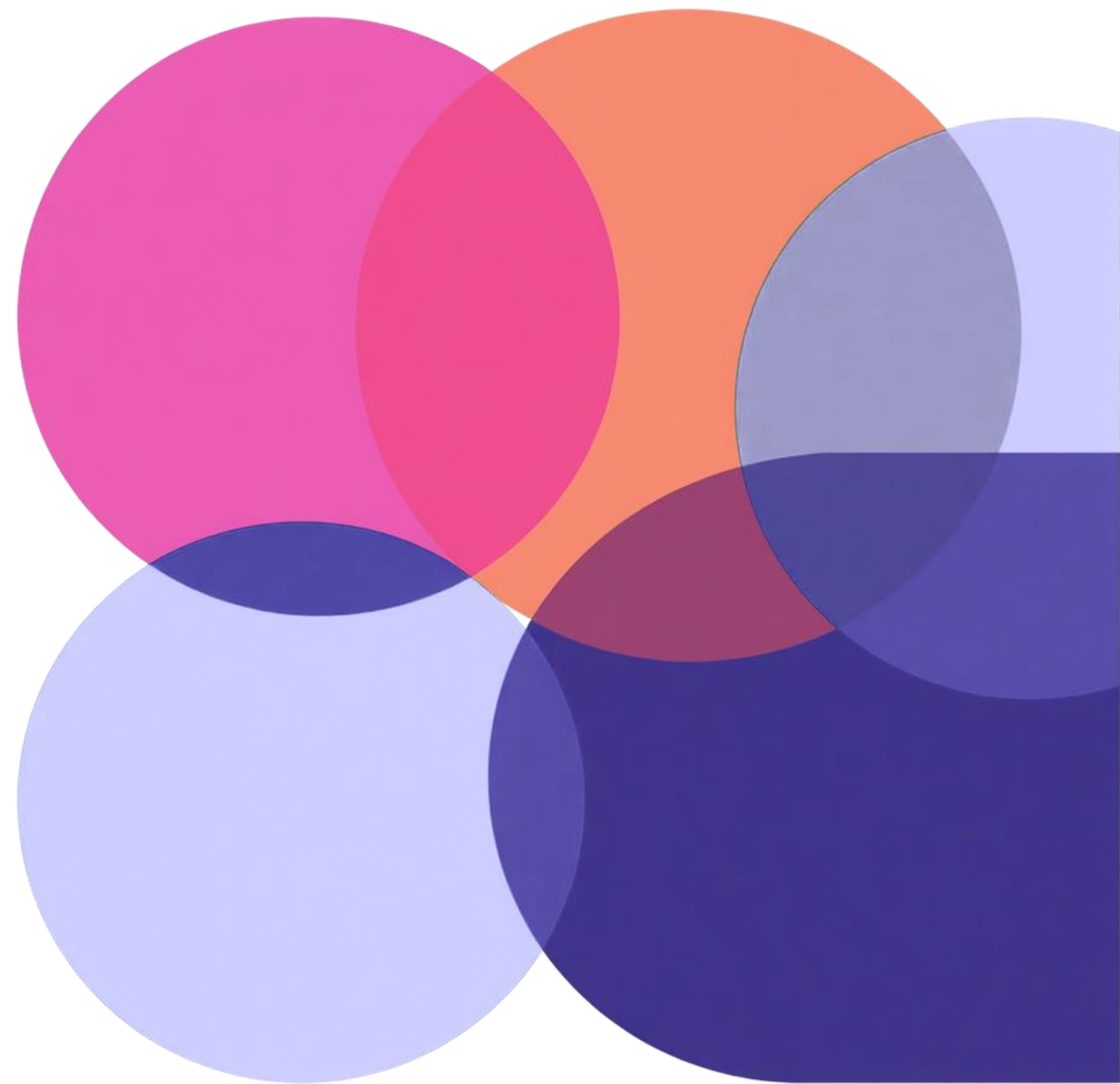




POSTER MAKING WORKSHOP

HOSTED BY THE SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESEARCH INITIATIVE & THE
GENDER VIOLENCE RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION NETWORK

SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2026 | 12PM–1PM CET |
ONLINE



INTRODUCTIONS



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SVRI



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GVRCN



Luise Koch

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Afreenbanu Khadirnavar

2024 SVRI Forum Poster
Award Winner

RUNNING ORDER

Welcome and practical requirements

Preparing your poster

Presenting your poster

Tips from a past award winner

Q & A and close

OBJECTIVES



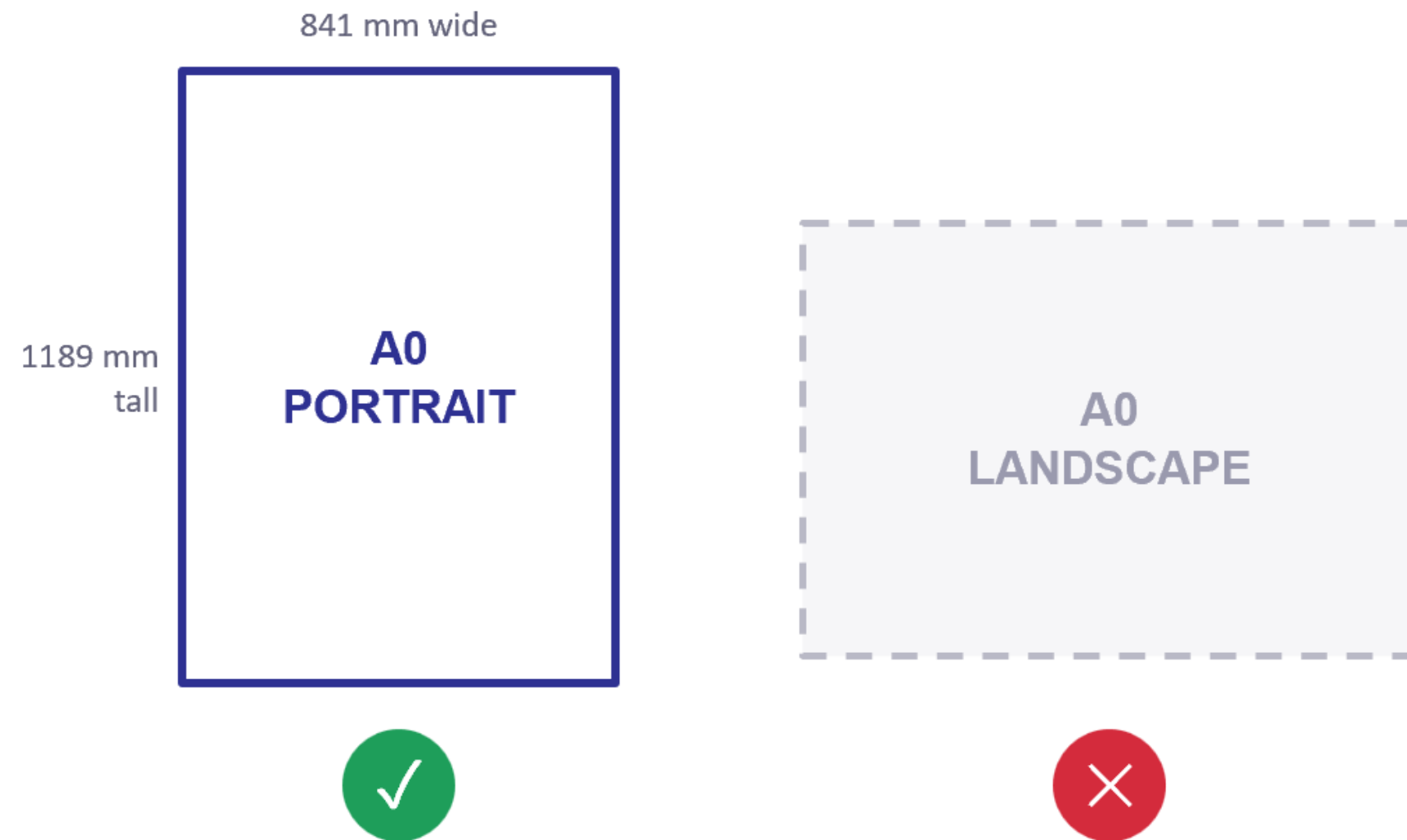
● Understand the SVRI Forum poster requirements and practical printing arrangements

● Learn how to identify and communicate a clear take-home message

● Become familiar with key design and accessibility principles for research and practice posters

● Gain practical tips for presenting your poster and responding to questions

POSTER REQUIREMENTS



Landscape posters will not be accommodated - the boards are portrait.

SIZE & FORMAT

A0 portrait only (841mm x 1189mm).
PDF recommended, file size 10–50MB.

LAYOUT & DESIGN

~20% text, 40% graphics, 40% space.
High resolution images required. All
fonts must be embedded. Avoid
graphic or disturbing images.

IMAGING, TONE AND DIGNITY

“Given the sensitive nature of the topics addressed at the SVRI Forum, presenters are asked to avoid the use of graphic, disturbing, or traumatic images.”

SVRI Forum 2026 poster printing specifications

Use visual content that is respectful and appropriate for a diverse, international audience.

● **Instead of survivor photographs**

Use abstract shapes, illustration, or your own data visualisations. A well-made chart carries more weight than a stock image anyway.

● **Instead of graphic detail in quotes**

Choose quotes that convey meaning without re-describing the violence. Ask whether a participant would want that sentence blown up to A0 in a public hall.

● **Watch the passer-by effect**

Your poster hangs in an open corridor where people arrive without preparing themselves. Design for someone encountering it by accident.

PREPARING YOUR POSTER

YOU ARE WRITING FOR 3 PEOPLE AT ONCE



Everyone who encounters your poster is doing one of three things. Design a layer for each of them.

5 seconds

The walk-by

Passing at speed, reading only the biggest thing on the board.

They need: a title that states a finding, not a topic. Big enough to read from three metres.

2 minutes

The stop-by

Something caught them. They are standing back, scanning for the point.

They need: one headline message, one strong figure, and headings that let them skim in any order.

10 minutes+

The deep dive

They want the methods, the caveats, and possibly to collaborate.

They need: you, a QR code to the full paper, and something to take away with your name on it.

START WITH ONE SENTENCE

Before you design anything, make sure you can answer this question:

“If someone remembers only one thing from your poster 24 hours later, what should it be?”

- **Say it in plain language**

If a colleague from another discipline cannot repeat it back, it is not ready.

- **Make it a claim, not a topic**

“We studied X” is a topic. “X happens, and here is what follows” is a message.

- **Then cut everything that does not serve it**

Every box on your poster should be answering “why should I believe that sentence?”

The title test

Topic title - forgettable

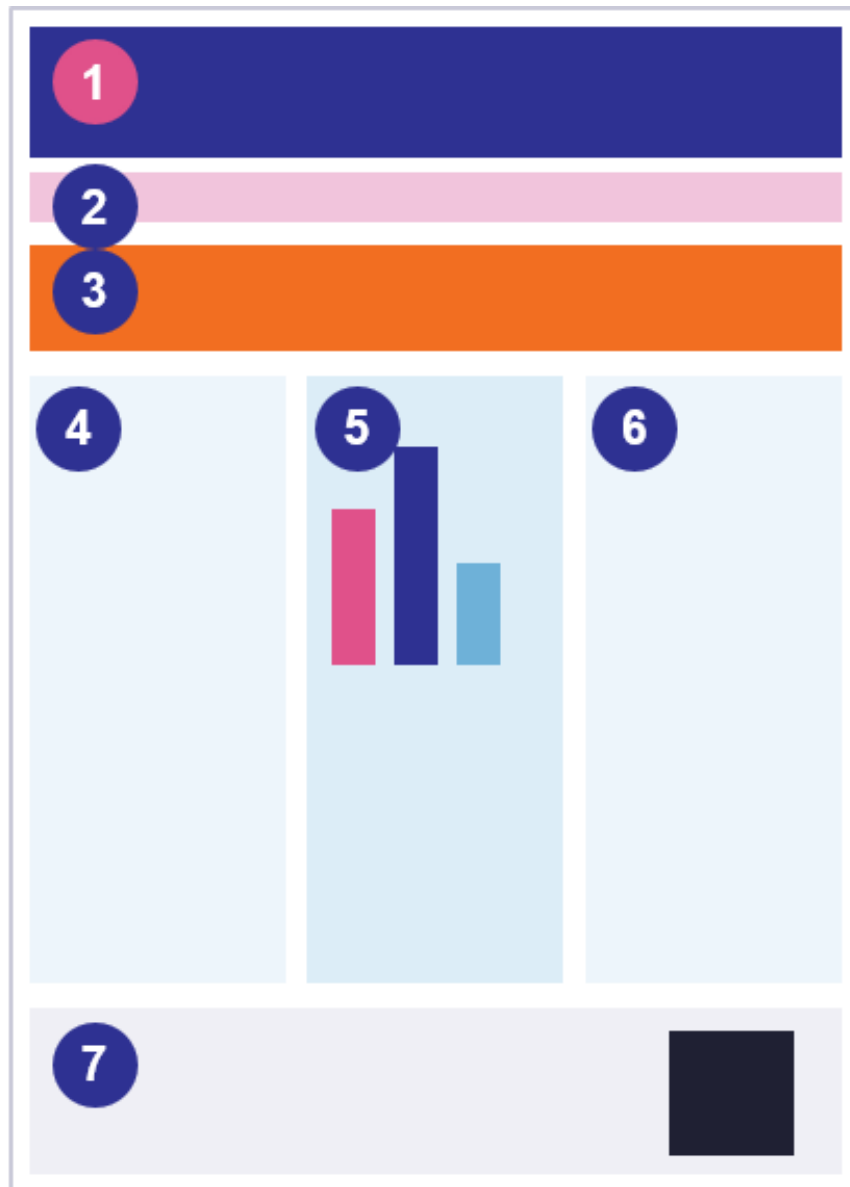
“A mixed-methods study of digital safety among adolescents in three countries”

Use a title that grabs people’s attention

“Adolescents told no one: 4 in 5 online abuse cases never reached an adult”

Your title is the only text some people will ever read.

THE ANATOMY OF A GOOD RESEARCH POSTER



1 Title

A finding in plain words. Readable from three metres.

2 Authors, affiliations, logos

Small, but never missing. This is how people find you afterwards.

3 The one-line takeaway

Give your key message its own highlighted band. Do not bury it in a Results box.

4 Context and methods

Short. Two or three sentences and a bulleted design summary is usually enough.

5 Findings

The visual centre of gravity. One strong figure is best here.

6 So what?

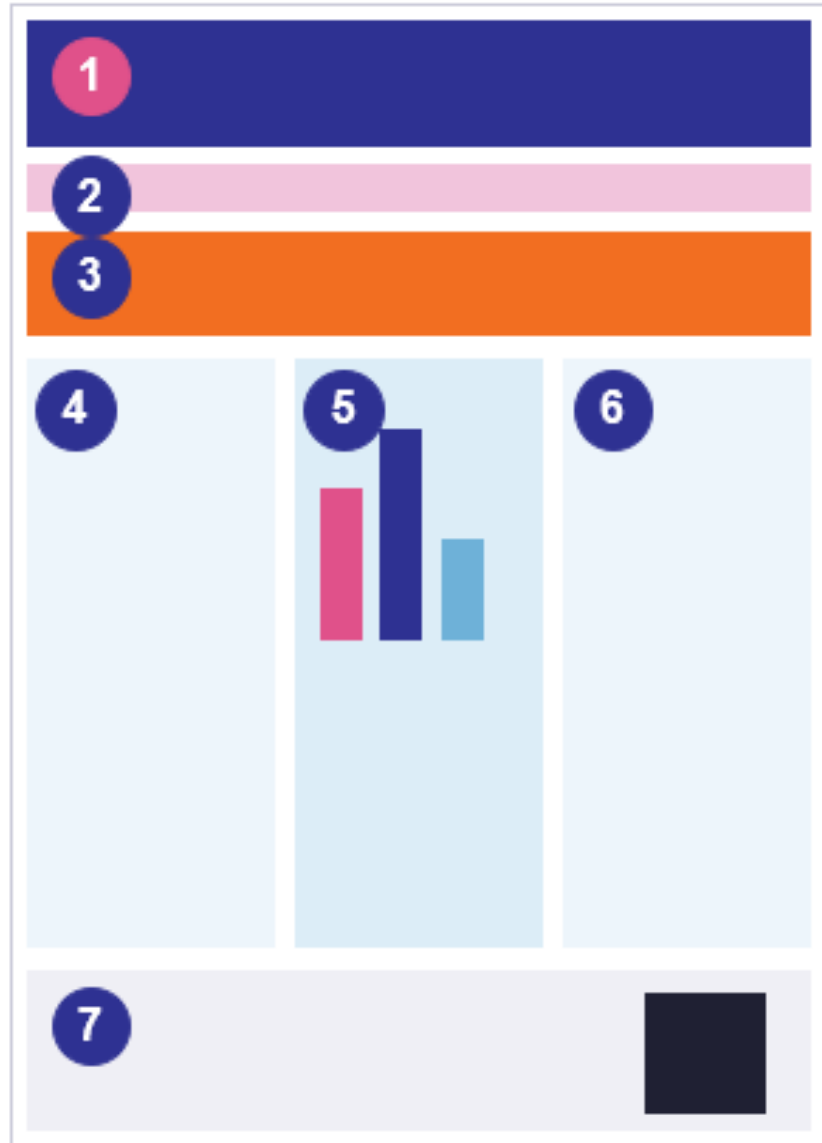
Implications for practice, policy or research. This is what people quote back to you.

7 Contact and QR code

Email, handle, and a code linking to the full paper or project page.

Reading order runs top to bottom, then left to right. Number your sections if the flow is not obvious - people will not guess.

THE ANATOMY OF A GOOD PRACTICE POSTER



- 1 Title**
A clear message, not just the name of the programme.
- 2 Authors, affiliations, logos**
Make it easy for people to know who did the work.
- 3 The one-line takeaway**
What is the one thing you want people to remember?
- 4 Context/challenge**
What problem or need were you responding to?
- 5 What you did**
The programme, intervention, approach or adaptation — keep it concise and visual.
- 6 What you learned + why it matters**
What worked, what did not, what changed, or what would you recommend to others?
- 7 Contact and QR code**
Link to the programme, resource, report or further information.

Practice posters do not need to force programme learning into a Methods–Results structure. Tell the story of the challenge, your response, what you learned and why it matters.

WATCH YOUR WORD COUNT

300-500

words on the whole poster

About one page of double-spaced text.

20% x 40% x 40%

20% text. 40% visual. 40% free space.

White space is not wasted space. It is what makes the rest readable.

1

figure that carries the story

If a reader looks at nothing else, which image makes your point?

Where the words usually go

-  **Methods** A paragraph on sampling frames becomes: design, sample, setting, analysis. Four lines.
-  **Literature review** Almost always deletable. One sentence of framing, then your own work.
-  **Tables of full results** Replace with the one comparison that matters. Put the full table behind the QR code.
-  **Caveats and hedging** Keep the limitations that change interpretation. Delete the rest.

GETTING YOUR POSTER PRINT READY



Format and file size

- PDF is the recommended format - it locks your layout, fonts, graphics and print quality in place.
- Aim for 10-50 MB. Up to 100 MB is accepted for high-resolution images or complex graphics.
- One poster per file. Nothing else in the document.
- Name it exactly:

SVRI2026_Poster_[Name_Surname].pdf

e.g. SVRI2026_Poster_Surname_Name.pdf



The pre-flight checklist

- Document size set to A0 portrait, 841 × 1189 mm
- Saved as a print-ready PDF
- All fonts embedded or converted to outlines
- All images, charts and graphics high resolution
- No missing links, hidden comments, editing marks or stray layers
- Proofread: spelling, author names, affiliations, logos, acknowledgements
- Final. Once it is confirmed, changes cost you a second order.

ACCESSIBILITY

1 Use plain language

Keep sentences short, limit jargon and spell out unfamiliar acronyms.

2 Make the reading order clear

Use descriptive headings and a logical top-to-bottom / left-to-right flow.

3 Make visuals self-explanatory

Give graphs clear titles and labels; avoid tiny legends and unexplained symbols.

4 Don't rely on colour alone

Use labels, shapes or symbols alongside colour so meaning is not lost.

Ask yourself: can someone understand the main message quickly, even if they have low vision, colour-vision differences, or English is not their first language?

A DESIGN THAT SURVIVES A CROWDED HALL

Type sizes that work at A0

Title	72-100 pt	read at 3 m
Section headings	36-48 pt	read at 2 m
Body text	24-32 pt	read at 1 m
Captions, references	18-20 pt	read at close up



● Contrast beats colour

Dark text on a light background. Always. Convention halls can be poorly lit.

● Three colours, maximum

One dominant, one supporting, one accent for the thing you want people to notice.

● Colour-blind safe

Vary shape and label, not just hue.

● Left-align everything

Centred paragraphs create ragged left edges that the eye has to hunt for on every line.

MAKE YOUR POSTER WORKS WHEN YOU ARE NOT STANDING NEXT TO IT

1

Use a QR code – and make sure it works!

Link to the full paper, the preprint, the project page or a short landing page. Test it on someone else's phone, on hotel wifi, before you print.

2

A one-page handout

Twenty copies. Your poster shrunk to A4 on one side, contact details and a short summary on the other. People keep paper.

3

Your name and a way to reach you

Email at a minimum. Add your LinkedIn or ORCID. Make it big enough to photograph from a metre away.

4

A clear ask

What do you want from a reader? Collaboration, data, a reviewer, funding, a job? Say it explicitly somewhere on the board.

PRESENTING YOUR POSTER

PREPARE YOUR PITCH

The aim is to start a conversation, rather than explain the whole poster

What is the issue?

What did you do?

What is the one key finding/learning?

Why does it matter?

COMMON QUESTIONS

Why did you choose this approach?

What would you do differently or do next?

What surprised you most?

What were the main limitations or challenges?

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR POSTER ACCEPTANCE

BEFORE

- Post on LinkedIn in the run-up - tell people you will be there and invite them to find you
- Message two or three people you actually want to meet and name a time
- Pack: handouts, pen, water, comfortable shoes, phone charged for the QR code

DURING

- Stand beside your poster, not in front of it - let people read without you in the way
- Open with a question, not a monologue: "What drew you over?"
- Post during the Forum telling people to stop by - sessions are long and people wander
- Write down who you spoke to. You will not remember by dinner

AFTER

- Follow up within 48 hours, while they can still picture your poster
- Share the PDF openly - your poster has a longer life online than on the board
- Note what people asked about most. That is your next paper's framing

On hard questions: "That is a real limitation - here is how we are thinking about it" is a stronger answer than a defence. "I do not know, but I would love to think about it" is a perfectly good one.

TIPS FROM A PAST SVRI POSTER WINNER

Peninah Kimiri | Global Gender-based Violence in Emergencies team, CARE

ADAPTING WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES (WGSS) IN HOSTILE HUMANITARIAN CONTEXTS

We captured and amplified locally led approaches to adapting Women and Girls' Safe Spaces in hostile humanitarian environments

Presentation by:
Peninah Kimiri,
Global Gender-based Violence in
Emergencies (GBVIE) team

Background
Establishment of Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) model is a complex issue in hostile humanitarian contexts. While global guidelines exist, there is a need for a context-specific guidance for implementing WGSS in such environments.

Research Objective
The primary objective for Gender-based violence in emergencies (GBVIE) team is to showcase how locally driven initiatives have enhanced WGSS efforts and how local leadership can foster impactful GBV interventions.

Methodology
The **participatory** and **bottom up** approaches strengthened local leadership and ownership.

Contextualization tool
A contextualization tool developed to support teams to modify international guidance to local realities.

Participatory research
Through participatory research, local teams generated knowledge and solutions. We built the capacity of local teams through training and mentorship.

Cross-learning and sharing
Sharing best practices and capacitating local teams, promoted the replication of successful models.

Promising case identification
Mentorship and guidance
Learning events- Community of practice

Good practice
Participatory process empowered local teams to localize and lead knowledge management on WGSS.

Training
Country teams adapt the "promising practices tool" for training of their partners (Uganda)

Research
Country teams develop their own research and capture learnings on WGSS (Yemen)

Results
The resources provide actionable, context-specific strategies and guidance on GBVIE programming.

WGSS promising practices guide: Summarizes the implementation of international standards and best practices across CARE

Project cycle tool: WGSS integration into project cycle

Country case studies: Compilation of WGSS implementation from 8 countries.

Translation:
Available in Arabic, French, Spanish

Participant countries
• Bangladesh
• Uganda
• Lebanon
• Yemen
• South Sudan
• Nigeria
• Egypt
• Türkiye/North-West Syria

Palestine
Temporary mobile safe spaces have been established as even physically safe spaces for the public decreases.

Uganda
Leadership cafes empowered women refugee leaders, fostering advocacy and participation in GBV interventions.

Yemen
Community protection mechanisms were adapted to local norms and developed innovative approaches.

Conclusion
Through replicating a collaborative, locally-led participatory process, we can create more effective, sustainable, and relevant programs for survivors of GBV, sharing promising practices, promoting replication of successful models and building capacity of local teams.

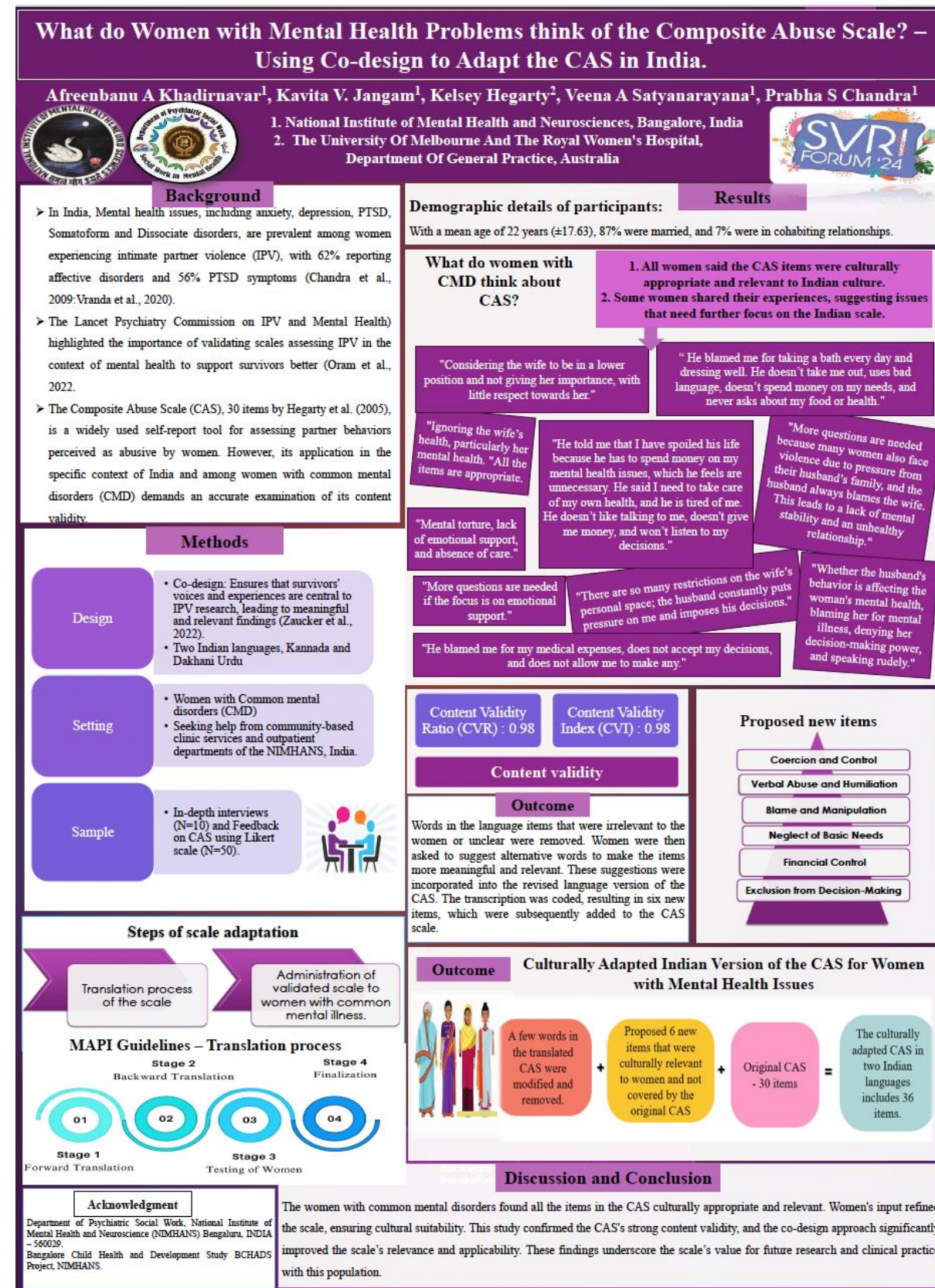
Presentation and acknowledgements
This poster presentation draws on the work of Peninah Kimiri, Menna Elsabbagh, and Amira Taha, with review and contributions from Rakhi Goshal and Valentina Codeluppi. Special thanks to CARE teams in Bangladesh, Yemen, Uganda, and South Sudan for their input and insights in developing the WGSS Promising Practices Guide. For more information, contact: peninah.kimiri@care.ca

“Adapting Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) in Hostile Humanitarian Contexts”

What the poster does well:

- A plain-language summary line directly under the title
- A QR code with its own instruction: “Scan to access the guide”
- A map doing the work eight country paragraphs would have done
- Named country examples, three lines each
- Contact details and acknowledgements at the foot

REFLECTIONS FROM A PAST SVRI POSTER WINNER



Afreenbanu Khadirnavar



Q&A SESSION

We welcome your questions!

Please use the chat box to type your question, our facilitators are here to help guide the discussion.

Share your experiences, insights, and ideas with the group. Your engagement makes this workshop richer for everyone. Don't hesitate – every question matters!

THANK YOU!

Thank you for joining our Poster Making Workshop!

Poster deadline: September 11, 2026. Submit your poster files to the organizing team. Share your poster on social media using #SVRIForum2026 and #GBVResearch.

For support, contact the SVRI Forum team.

