Request for Proposals 2026/2027

SVRI Early Career Research Fellowships: Advancing Research on the Intersection of Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children

Background

Recognition of the deep connections between violence against children (VAC) and violence against women (VAW) is growing, yet the evidence base remains limited, fragmented, and underdeveloped. Most research focuses on the intersections between intimate partner violence (IPV) against women and child maltreatment within the home, with limited evidence on other forms of VAC and VAW.

An early global review – findings of which were first shared at SVRI Forum 2013 - identified six key areas of intersection: shared risk factors; harmful social norms that drive perpetration and discourage help- seeking; high rates of co-occurrence, particularly within households; intergenerational impacts; overlapping and compounding consequences throughout life; and adolescence as a critical period of heightened vulnerability to both VAC and VAW.

A systematic review of IPV and VAC co-occurrence in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) confirmed a significant link between IPV and child maltreatment but also highlighted major gaps in the evidence. Few studies examined risk factors for co-occurring violence within households, and findings were often contradictory. Research rarely measured male-perpetrated violence against children or female-perpetrated IPV, and definitions and measures of violence varied widely. These gaps, alongside a lack of gender and power analysis and few longitudinal studies, limit understanding of the relationships between, and the risk and protective factors associated with, co-occurring VAC and VAW.

Identifying programmes that effectively address both VAC and VAW is essential for developing integrated, evidence-based approaches.

A recent rapid systematic review explored these intersections, identifying 29 effective interventions from 15 countries interventions that work across both forms of violence. Interventions identified, include 18 primary prevention initiatives (mostly from LMICs) and 11 response interventions (mostly from high-income countries). While some were designed to address VAC-VAW intersections, most focused on either IPV or child maltreatment, with limited attention to the other form of violence. Few interventions combined prevention and response, and little evidence exists on ineffective or harmful approaches. Methodological issues, including inconsistent definitions and high risks of bias, further restrict understanding.

About the Fellowship

Too often, research on VAW and VAC in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) is led and funded by institutions in high-income countries. This skews priorities and limits relevance. Locally led research, on the other hand, is more impactful, more sustainable, and better aligned with community needs.

Through this fellowship, SVRI—with support from the Kering Foundation—is investing in early career researchers in LMICs who are committed to building the evidence and action needed to prevent violence and promote the rights and wellbeing of women and children.

Fellowship Objectives

The SVRI Early Career Research Fellowships aim to:

- Strengthen the evidence base on the intersections of VAW and VAC.
- Build leadership and research capacity among early career researchers in LMICs.
- Support the publication and dissemination of locally generated knowledge.
- Foster regional and global networks of feminist, equity-driven researchers.

Additionally, it supports fellows by enabling them to:

- Contributing to an urgent, under-researched area.
- Gaining access to mentorship, networks, and global visibility.
- Building a foundation for long-term academic and policy impact.

Available Fellowships

Fellowship Type	Number of Awards	Value (USD)	Duration
Doctoral Fellowship	2	$17,000	Up to 2 years
Postdoctoral Fellowship	2	$20,500	Up to 2 years

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be a national of a low- or middle-income country (LMIC).
- Be enrolled full-time at an in-person, accredited academic institution in an LMIC.
- Be undertaking PhD dissertation or postdoctoral research focused on the intersection of VAW and VAC.
- (For PhD applicants) Have a defended or institutionally approved dissertation proposal.

Preference will be given to candidates who:

- Are from underrepresented regions or groups.
- Demonstrate a long-term commitment to advancing the rights and wellbeing of women and girls.

How to Apply

All applications must be submitted online through Proposal Central:
https://proposalcentral.altum.com
First-time users must register before accessing the application form.
Languages accepted: English, French, Spanish.

Application Process

1. **Complete Online Application Form, which includes:**
   - Career Objectives (6000 spaces)
   - Community Impact Statement (3000 spaces)
   - Research Proposal (following SVRI format, see below)
2. **Upload Required Documents:**
   - Letter from academic institution verifying status and nationality
   - Academic transcripts (past 2 years)
   - Two reference letters (one from your academic advisor)
3. **Interview:**
   Short-listed candidates will be invited to participate in a panel interview.

Online Application Form Sections:

(All character limits include spaces. Please only use text, no special characters or formatting allowed)

- **Career objectives**: Describe your long-term professional goals and how the fellowship will help you achieve them. Reflect on how your background and personal experiences have influenced your path toward working in the VAW/VAC space (6000 characters).
- **Community impact statement**: While the fellowship prioritises advancing the rights and wellbeing of women and girls, we recognise that addressing violence, particularly at the intersections of violence against women and violence against children, may require engaging boys, men, and broader community members to create lasting change. In this section, please clearly describe the ways in which your work will improve the lives, safety, and wellbeing of women and girls. If applicable, you may also explain how your research's engagement with boys, men, or others will contribute to this goal. (3000 characters).

Research proposal: Using SVRI research grant format with minor adjustments

- **Applicant & institution details (keep it same)**
- **Abstract**: Please provide an overall description of the entire study. It should include a brief statement of the need or problem being addressed, the need for the study, the methodology(s) to be employed in accomplishing the tasks outlined, research goals or expected outcomes, the time duration, and the approximate cost (3000 characters).
- **Project Background**: The project background must clearly outline what is already known

about the research topic and justify the need for the study. It must provide the foundation of your study, offering insight into the broader area of research, summarising existing literature, showing how your study will address a research gap. Your reference list can be uploaded as an attachment (6000 characters).

- **Innovation and Contribution**: What is particularly innovative about this project? What will its contribution to building the evidence for VAW/VAC prevention and response in low- and middle-income countries? What are the limitations and strengths of your study? (3000 characters).
- **Research Aim and Objectives**: Clearly articulate clear, specific research aim and objectives (3000 characters). (Up to maximum of 4 objectives)
- **Research Methods**: Please describe how this study will achieve the aim and objectives. Provide detailed information on study design, study site, study population, sampling and analysis. Where appropriate, also include information on the intervention, including type, target group, delivery mechanisms, setting etc. (6000 characters).
- **Data Management Plan**: Outlines what data will be collected, how it will be securely stored and backed up, the strategy for ethical sharing and long-term preservation, and any legal or privacy concerns that need to be addressed. (2500 characters).
- **Research Plan**: Your research plan is the nuts and bolts of your proposed research, where you succinctly describe your research rationale and the research activities you will conduct to accomplish each aim and objective. Think of your research aim being your destination for your research, your Research Plan is the map that takes you there by describing the activities you will conduct. For example, if you have expertise in a method or experience working with certain groups, highlight this in the research plan to showcase how you are best suited to carry out this research, justify why you think you will succeed. (8000 characters)
- **Ethical Considerations**: All SVRI supported research must have ethical approval. Outline the ethical considerations specific to your study and how do you plan to address these? State if your project has ethical secured ethical approval, or if approval is pending and from where (6000 characters).
- **Timeline**: A realistic schedule outlining key milestones over 24 months of the project.
- **Budget and Justification**: The budget should be a definitive line-item budget for all direct costs, and administrative or indirect costs. Overhead should be no more than 15% of total costs and the total cost of the proposal should be $17,000/year for dissertation fellowships

and $20,500/year for postdoctoral fellowships including overhead. Any applications exceeding the budget ceiling will not be considered. *Please note that South African applicants must submit their budgets in South African Rands. Proposals submitted by South African applicants with budgets in USD will be rejected at the point of receipt. All other applicants must submit their budget in USD.
*Please include costs for one 4-day academic site visit to Canada and to attend one international conference during the fellowship. Explain why this conference is important for your professional development.

Application Deadline

All applications must be submitted by: **15 January 2027 at 11:59pm (South African Time).**

Late applications or those not submitted via Proposal Central will not be considered. We strongly encourage early submission. Online platforms may experience high traffic close to the deadline. SVRI and Proposal Central are not responsible for internet issues or submission failures.

Contact information: For questions or support, please contact: svri@svri.org with subject 'Fellowships'.