

University Network: Children Challenging Sexual Violence

First briefing paper

Delphine Peace and Jenny Pearce

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INTRODUCTION

This university network supports the promotion of activities undertaken by universities around the world to challenge sexual violence against children, including curriculum development and delivery and research activities. It aims to connect those working in universities on such activities to share learning, to enhance collaboration and to raise the profile of the work.

This is important as it is often through universities that knowledge is generated and validated and where the teaching of the next generation of practitioners occurs.

While we are keen for the network to focus on supporting and encouraging those working within universities to challenge sexual violence against children, we appreciate that this can often be seen as a narrow field and that such work can take place only through 'one off' temporary grants or initiatives rather than a committed long term strategy. Much of the work developed is undertaken in partnership with international and national non-governmental organisations (INGOs/NGOs) and so we are keen to include this work where possible within the university network. We also appreciate that sexual violence is often addressed within generic approaches to violence against children. For these reasons we aim to include those working in universities challenging sexual violence against children or other forms of abuse. As the work develops and is further disseminated, we are keen to further prioritise activities focusing solely on sexual violence against children. In the longer term, we want to focus on university led strategic initiatives engaging participatory approaches with children and young people to prevent and respond to sexual violence against children. In particular the network is aiming to encourage university engagement with participatory approaches that enable and support children to be co-determiners of research agendas, activities, and teaching and curriculum materials.

The university network is an initiative developed as part of the Our Voices programme of work coordinated by the 'International Centre: Researching child sexual exploitation, violence and trafficking' at the University of Bedfordshire in the UK (hereafter referred to as 'the International Centre') with current support from the Oak Foundation. The Our Voices programme promotes the involvement of children and young people affected by sexual violence in research, policy and practice. See more on <https://www.our-voices.org.uk>

This briefing paper covers activities arising from the very early stages of the development of this network (from March to May 2019). It hopes to encourage others to contact us, engage with the work and be part of thinking about all further activities.

INITIAL FINDINGS

In order to establish a knowledge base of who is doing what, where and how, we designed a brief survey to begin to map out academics and institutions working in this field. 53 individuals in total responded to the survey. Out of these 53 respondents, 41 are affiliated to a university representing a total of 33 universities (some respondents were associated to the same university). Responses from the 41 individuals affiliated to a university were reviewed and divided into the following categories:

1. Universities challenging sexual violence against children (SVAC)
2. Universities challenging other forms of abuse against children or working on child protection and wellbeing
3. Universities engaged in participatory work with children challenging SVAC or other forms of abuse against children
4. PhD and postgraduate students conducting research on challenging SVAC or other forms of abuse against children

Another 5 responses were received from representatives of IGNOs/NGOs and one response was received from a government-funded national research centre. 5 of the 53 respondents wished to be affiliated to the network independently and remain anonymous.

The following charts and tables summarise initial data gathered by the survey based on this categorisation. The tables only list survey answers of respondents who have agreed for their data to be made public. The abbreviation 'N/a' indicates where data was not provided by respondents.

As the network develops, and more data is gathered, we aim to create a live interactive map and index on the Our Voices website displaying all universities and other institutions and agencies identified working on challenging SVAC.

Table 1. Universities challenging SVAC

13 universities out of the 33 identified are working on challenging SVAC.

University	Faculty	Country	No. of respondents	Thematic focus	Types of activities undertaken
University for the Applied Sciences Potsdam	Social Sciences and Education	Germany	1	Sexuality and children's rights; Sociology and history of childhood	Teaching Undergraduates
College of Social Work	N/a	Serbia	1	Child abuse; Vicarious trauma in child welfare; Trauma-informed care, training professionals	Teaching undergraduates; Teaching postgraduates; Teaching professionals
University of Belgrade	Social Work and Social Policy	Serbia	2	Child abuse and neglect; Child rights and participation; Children in alternative care; Domestic violence; Family support services; Child trafficking; Professional development of social service workforce; Social service standards and social service provision; Trauma-informed care; Vicarious trauma in child welfare	Research; Evaluation; Consultations; Curriculum development for undergraduates; Curriculum development for postgraduates; Curriculum development for professionals; Teaching undergraduates; Teaching postgraduates; Teaching professionals
Durban University of Technology	Management Science	South Africa	1	Indigenous pathways to the prevention of sexual violence, Gender based violence against women and girls	Research; Teaching undergraduates; Teaching postgraduates
University of the Witwatersrand	Humanities	South Africa	1	Child sexual exploitation (CSE); Child trafficking	Research; Consultations; Curriculum development for undergraduates; Curriculum development for postgraduates; Curriculum development for professionals; Teaching undergraduates; Teaching postgraduates
Swansea University	Law and Criminology Human & Health Sciences	UK	2	Sexual violence against children; Understanding the views of sexually exploited minorities; including boys and young men	Research; Evaluation; Consultations; Teaching undergraduates; Teaching postgraduates Curriculum development for postgraduates; Teaching postgraduates

University of Bedfordshire	Health and Social Sciences	UK	1	CSE	Research; Consultations
University of Central Lancashire	School of Psychology; School of Social Work, Care and Community	UK	3	Children's participation; Forensic psychology – aggression; sexual offenders and exploitation; CSE online; Working with the police on the vulnerability of CSE victims;	Research; Evaluation; Consultations; Curriculum development for undergraduates; Curriculum development for postgraduates; Curriculum development for professionals; Teaching undergraduates; Teaching postgraduates; Teaching professionals
University of Edinburgh	Social Policy; Moray House School of Education	UK	2	Child sexual abuse; Sexual violence; Participation; Participatory action research; National policy making and service development	Research; Consultations; Curriculum development for undergraduates; Curriculum development for postgraduates; Curriculum development for professionals; Teaching undergraduates; Teaching postgraduates; Teaching professionals
University of Oxford	Social Policy and Intervention	UK	1	Children and adolescent violence exposure and abuse, including sexual abuse, in sub-Saharan Africa	Research; Evaluation; Teaching postgraduates
Rutgers University	Social Work	USA	1	Sexual violence against girls	N/a
University of Florida	Gender; Sexualities and Women Studies Research	USA	1	Sexual violence against women and girls	N/a
Women University in Africa	Social Sciences and Gender Transformative Studies	Zimbabwe	1	Rehabilitation of sexually exploited children; Role of communities in recovery and reintegration	Research; Evaluation

Table 2. Universities challenging other forms of abuse against children / working on child protection and wellbeing

10 universities out of the 33 identified are challenging other forms of abuse against children or working across various disciplines related to child protection and wellbeing.

University	Faculty	Country	No. of respondents	Thematic focus	Types of activities undertaken
Addis Ababa University	Department of Economics	Ethiopia	1	N/a	Research; Evaluation
University of North Bengal	Centre for Human Trafficking Research, Faculty of Economics	India	1	Child Trafficking	Research; Consultations; Curriculum development for professionals
Riga Graduate School of Law	International Law	Latvia	1	International criminal law and human rights law; Trafficking of persons and smuggling of migrants	Research; Evaluation; Consultations
University of Lisbon	Human Kinetics	Portugal	1	Health promotion and social behaviour	Research; Evaluation; Consultations
Delta State University	Social Education	Nigeria	1	Globalisation studies; African culture and development; national development and human capital development in Nigeria.	Research; Evaluation; Consultations; Curriculum development for undergraduates; Teaching undergraduates
University of Cape Town	Health Sciences	South Africa	1	Child rights; Participatory democracy; Governance; Law reform and policy development; Child protection	Research; Evaluation; Consultations; Curriculum development for postgraduates; Curriculum development for professionals; Teaching postgraduates; Teaching professionals; Advocacy
University of Eswatini	Social Sciences	Swaziland	1	Child protection; Community resilience; Social theory and social policy	Research; Consultations; Teaching undergraduates; Teaching professionals
Nsamizi training institute of social development	Social Work	Uganda	1	Domestic violence	Research

Hopwood Hall College	Early Years	UK	1	Teaching safeguarding incorporating the voice of the child	Curriculum development for undergraduates; Teaching undergraduates
Columbia University	Global Mental Health Lab and Clinical Training	USA	1	Randomised controlled trials psychotherapy for depressed adolescents across cultures	Research; Evaluation; Consultations; Curriculum development for postgraduate; Curriculum; development for professionals; Teaching professionals

Table 3. Universities engaged in participatory work with children challenging SVAC or other forms of abuse

5 universities out of the 33 identified are actively engaged with participatory approaches preventing or responding to SVAC or other forms of abuse.

University	Faculty	Country	No. of respondents	Thematic focus	Types of activities undertaken
University of South Australia	Australian Centre for Child Protection	Australia	1	Child abuse prevention; Participatory research; Codesign with children and young people; Out of home residential care	Research; Evaluation; Consultations; Curriculum development for undergraduates; Curriculum development for postgraduates; Curriculum development for professionals; Teaching undergraduates; Teaching postgraduates; Teaching professionals
University of Milano - Bicocca	Human Sciences for Education	Italy	1	Child protection and children's rights; Research and professionals/teachers training on violence against children; involving national stakeholders on the topic	Research; Curriculum development for professionals; Teaching undergraduates; Teaching postgraduates; Teaching professionals
University of Belgrade	Social Work and Social Policy	Serbia	2	Child abuse and neglect; Child rights and participation; Children in alternative care; Domestic violence; Family support services; Child trafficking; Professional development of social service workforce; Social service standards and social service provision; Trauma-informed care; Vicarious trauma in child welfare	Research; Evaluation; Consultations; Curriculum development for undergraduates; Curriculum development for postgraduates; Curriculum development for professionals; Teaching undergraduates; Teaching postgraduates; Teaching professionals

University of Central Lancashire	School of Psychology	UK	2	Children's participation; Forensic psychology – aggression; sexual offenders and exploitation	Research; Evaluation; Consultations; Curriculum development for undergraduates; Curriculum development for postgraduates; Curriculum development for professionals; Teaching undergraduates; Teaching postgraduates; Teaching professionals
University of Edinburgh	Social Policy	UK	1	Sexual violence; Participation; participatory action research; National policy making and service development	Research; Consultations; Curriculum development for undergraduates; Curriculum development for postgraduates; Curriculum development for professionals; Teaching undergraduates; Teaching postgraduates; Teaching professionals

Table 4. Postgraduate students conducting research on SVAC or other forms of abuse

17 respondents from 14 universities out of the 33 identified are PhD/postgraduate students conducting research on challenging SVAC or other forms of abuse.

University	Faculty	Country	No. of respondents	Thematic focus	Types of activities undertaken
University for the Applied Sciences Potsdam	Social Sciences and Education	Germany	1	Sexuality and children's rights; Sociology and history of childhood	Teaching Undergraduates
Riga Graduate School of Law	International Law	Latvia	1	International criminal law and human rights law; Trafficking of persons and smuggling of migrants	Research; Evaluation; Consultations
University of Belgrade	Social Work and Social Policy	Serbia	2	Social protection; Child Abuse; Human Trafficking; Children refugees and unaccompanied minors	Research; Consultations; Curriculum development for professionals; Teaching undergraduates
University of Nis	Social Policy and Social Work	Serbia	2	Child protection	Research; Teaching undergraduates

Durban University of Technology	Management Science	South Africa	1	Indigenous pathways to the prevention of sexual violence, Gender based violence against women and girls	Research; Teaching undergraduates; Teaching postgraduates
Nsamizi training institute of social development	Social Work	Uganda	1	Domestic violence	Research
Cardiff Metropolitan University	Youth and Community Education	UK	1	N/a	N/a
University of Bedfordshire	Health and Social Sciences	UK	1	CSE	Research; Consultations
University of Central Lancashire	School of Psychology	UK	2	CSE	Research; Teaching undergraduates; Teaching postgraduates
University of Edinburgh	Moray House School of Education	UK	1	Child sexual abuse	Research; Teaching postgraduates
University of Hull	Arts, Culture and Education	UK	1	N/a	N/a
Rutgers University	Social Work	USA	1	Sexual violence against girls	N/a
Hanoi Law University	Administrative law	Vietnam	1	N/a	Research; Teaching professionals
Women University in Africa	Social Sciences and Gender Transformative Studies	Zimbabwe	1	Rehabilitation of sexually exploited children; Role of communities in recovery and reintegration	Research; Evaluation

Table 5. INGO/NGOs challenging SVAC

5 respondents from INGO/NGOs challenging SVAC were identified (although not an NGO, UNICEF has been included in this category).

Organisation	No. of respondents	Thematic focus	Types of activities undertaken
ECPAT International	1	Sexual exploitation against children	Research; Consultations; Curriculum development for professionals
Terre des Hommes	1	Child Protection programmes internationally (Children on the move; Child abuse; Child trafficking, Child labour); Child Rights, BOND Child Rights Working Group	Evaluation; Consultations; Awareness raising and income generation
UNICEF	1	Violence against children prevention research and practice; Participatory research	Research; Evaluation; Consultations
War Child UK	1	Safeguarding in humanitarian emergencies	Use of child-centred approaches in accountability work around child safeguarding / SEA violations by staff, partners and other representatives; Advocacy
Zimbabwe Institute of Systemic Therapy -CONNECT	1	Counselling and training for families and children including those who have experienced sexual violence and training of counsellors	Research; Evaluation; Consultation; ,Curriculum development for undergraduates

Table 6. Government-funded national research centres and institutes challenging SVAC

1 respondent from a national research centre challenging SVAC was identified.

Institution	No. of respondents	Thematic focus	Types of activities undertaken
The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse	1	Child sexual abuse	Research; Evaluation; Consultations; Policy

Chart 1. Overall breakdown of discipline areas for the 33 universities represented

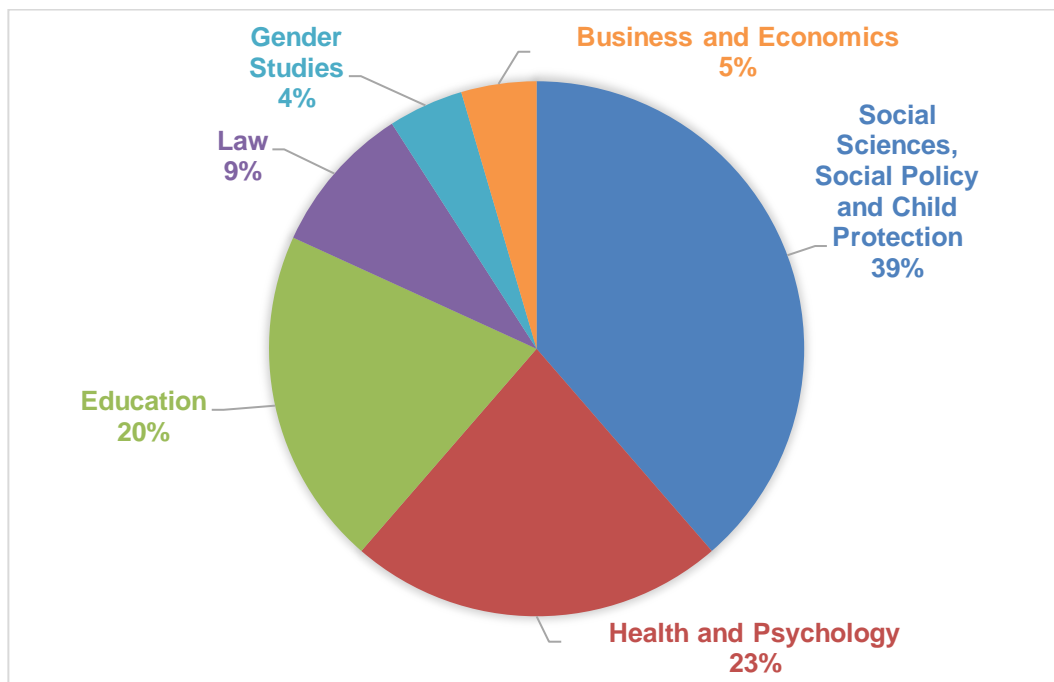
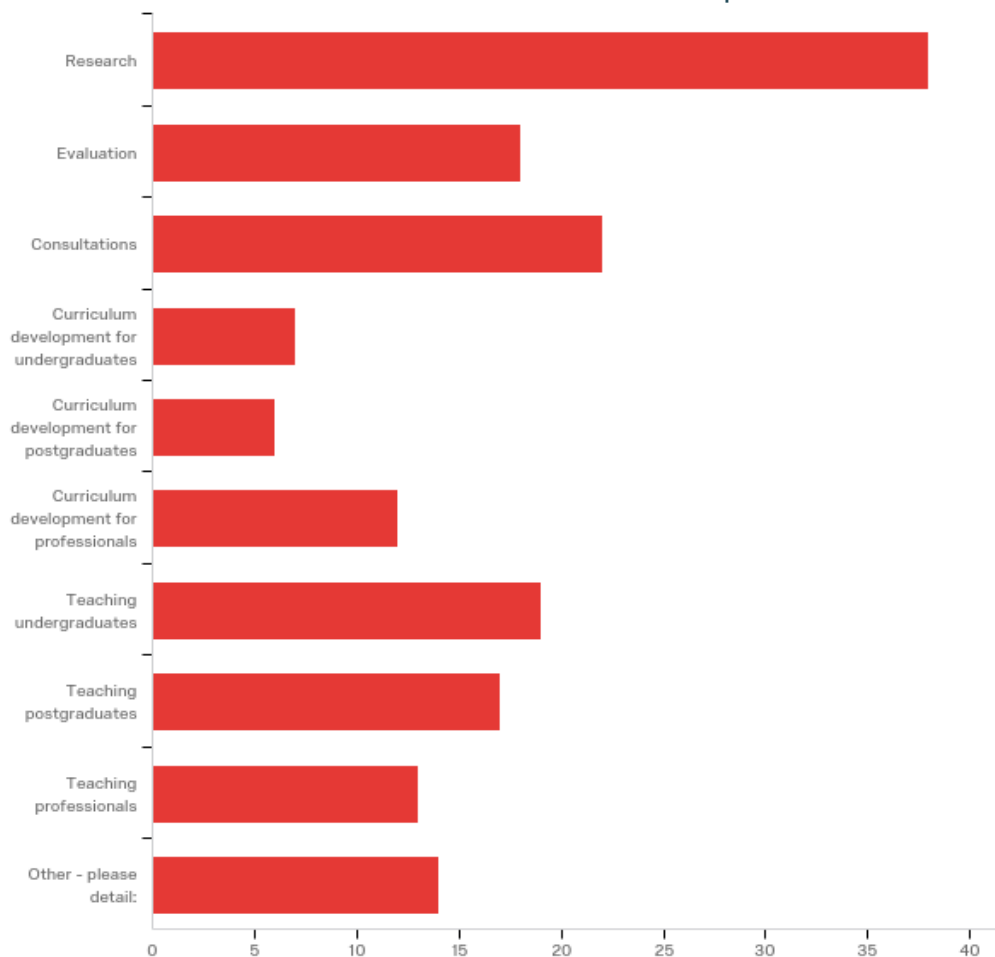


Chart 2. Overall breakdown of activities for all 53 respondents



Answers listed as 'others' include: humanitarian emergencies; family therapy training; human trafficking; practical experience with unaccompanied minors and advocacy with policy and law makers.

NEXT STEPS

Network launch

We initially propose to group memberships under six groups based on expertise and approaches:

- Group 1: Universities challenging SVAC
- Group 2: Universities challenging other forms of abuse / working on child protection and wellbeing
- Group 3: Universities using participatory approaches to work with children challenging SVAC or other forms of abuse
- Group 3: Postgraduate students researching SVAC or other forms of abuse
- Group 4: INGOs/NGOs challenging SVAC
- Group 5: Government-funded national research centres challenging SVAC

The profile of members who have so far consented to their contact details and biography being shared can viewed on the Our Voices website: <https://www.our-voices.org.uk/university-network/member-profiles>

Joining the network

If you are interested in becoming a member of this university network, please complete the survey to provide some initial background information about yourself and your institution and we will be in touch. The survey can be accessed via this link:

https://bedshealthsciences.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7PQirxMhd2z3IMV

Participatory resources, including tools, publications, podcasts and webinars, and updates from the Our Voices programme of work can be accessed freely on the Our Voices website (<https://www.our-voices.org.uk>). You can become a member of the Our Voices website to receive regular updates about the wider Our Voices programme of work: <https://www.our-voices.org.uk/network/join>

Future activities

Between now and September 2019 we will prioritise the following activities:

- Continue to advertise the network and map out academic and learning institutions engaged in this work
- Create an interactive map and index on the website containing details of specific activities related to challenging sexual violence against children that are run by academic institutions/agencies

- Summarise the findings from the initial survey in a blog on The Our Voices Website
- Hold a webinar in collaboration with the 'Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children' to share initial findings from this scoping: July 22nd 12-2pm UK time (please contact delphine.peace@beds.ac.uk for information)
- Publish plans for future webinars and blogs
- Work with members to understand how they are utilising participatory approaches in research; teaching and curriculum development and begin to collect learning and case studies that will be shared on the network
- Consult with members about how to disseminate information about their work and the network more widely
- Promote engagement between postgraduate students wanting to support each other in developing new and innovative research in the field
- Develop ideas with postgraduate students of how they might use and develop the network to support and promote their work
- Draw on expertise derived from the work to inform the development of a strategic framework for academic and learning institutions to adopt for their work on challenging sexual violence against children
- Clarify authorship and ownership of products; such as the strategic framework or other outputs created in collaboration with key informants

As this network will develop over the coming months we would love to hear from you. For any questions or suggestions please get in touch with delphine.peace@beds.ac.uk



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The logo for the Oak Foundation, featuring the word "OAK" in a large, blue, serif font with a globe icon integrated into the letter "O", and the word "FOUNDATION" in a smaller, blue, serif font below it.

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