

Email to Jenny Rathbone from Melanie Matthews- 12.05.25

Good afternoon, Jenny

I work in the Gender Equality team in the Welsh Government.

At our recent Gender Equality forum, Dr Sarah Wallace and Professor Emily Underwood-Lee from the VAWDASV Research Network Wales presented to the forum to explain about the network and the work they have been undertaking.

I was asked by the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip, Jane Hutt to share details of this network, below is a brief overview;

The [VAWDASV Research Network Wales](#) is a non-constituted membership organisation led by two Co-Chairs both based at the University of South Wales, who facilitate, co-ordinate, and support the Network through time given to the Co-Chairs to run the Network. Additional support is provided by the Public Health Wales Violence Prevention Unit (PHW VPU), who support with some of the administration of the Networks meetings and publicity. Anyone with an interest in VAWDASV research within or beyond Wales is welcome to join the Network, and there is no charge for membership.

The Network aims to be an inclusive research community for Wales that provides a safe, open forum to bring together those who are working towards an end to VAWDASV to set the future research agenda, foster collaboration and develop grant applications, undertake high quality research, and work towards the elimination of VAWDASV.

Our membership includes over 200 people representing over 90 organisations including specialist VAWDASV services, higher education (HE), police and criminal justice, health, local authorities, the third sector, national government, schools and colleges, and sport. Together with our website, we hold regular online meetings with members and publish quarterly bilingual newsletters.

Examples of collaborative projects include:

Active

- [‘Listening is a big step’: Co-developing a Multi-Agency Framework with Black and Minority Ethnic Women for Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence](#)
- [Stalking and Young People in Wales: Exploring and increasing knowledge, awareness and understanding](#)
- Efficacy of perpetrator interventions

Completed

- [Addressing Police Perpetrated Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence \(VAWDASV\): A Process Evaluation: Final Report](#)
- [Spaces for Change: Relief from Refuge for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Abuse - Institute of Welsh Affairs](#)
- [Bawso BME Oral Stories Project](#)

I hope you find this information useful.

Thanks

Mel

Mel Matthews

(Rhagenwau Personol: Hi / Iddi | Personal Pronouns: She / Her)

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