## **Learning Hub on Gender-Based Violence**

Updated Terms of Reference August 2018

## **1. Background to the Joint Learning Initiative**

The Joint Learning Initiative: Faith and Local Communities (JLI) is an international collaboration on evidence for faith groups’ role and contributions to local community health and wellbeing and ending poverty. The JLI works to increase the quantity and quality of robust, practical evidence about the influence of religious and faith groups on community health and development.

**JLI Vision:** Full and appropriate engagement of the capacities of faith groups in the achievement of the SDGs through effective partnerships with academia, public sector and other secular entities, as well as among faith groups themselves.

**JLI Goals:**

* Build cross-sector, multi-religious, interdisciplinary, collaborative learning platforms to gather robust evidence for capacities, activities and contributions of faith groups
* Understand the drivers of attitude and behavior change for policy makers and practitioners relating to engaging with faith groups
* Deliver smart communication to policymakers and practitioners to transform the quality, and effectiveness of partnerships between faith groups and secular development and humanitarian entities and to enable the scale up of good practices amongst faith actors.

For more information please see [the JLI website](http://www.jliflc.com).

## **2. The Gender Based Violence Learning Hub (GBV Hub)**

The GBV Hub was established in 2014 to create a horizontal learning community linking academics, policy makers, funders and practitioners working on issues of faith and GBV, with a focus on evidence for faith groups’ activities and influence in this area. Framing questions for the Hub are listed in the [Appendix](#_4d34og8).

Any research commissioned by the Hub is expected to adhere to the following academic values and principles:

* Recognise and challenge gender inequalities that drive VAW
* Commit to working within a human rights framework
* Be cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary in our approach
* Advance, embrace and promote diversity
* Acknowledge the intersection of poverty, social exclusion and violence
* Focus on LMICs
* Promote ethical and rigorous and research
* Engage with the community that is being researched where appropriate and relevant
* Apply research findings to policy and practice.
* Serve our membership with integrity and independence

## **3. GBV Hub Objectives and Activities**

Research, policy and funding

* Build evidence for faith involvement in GBV prevention and response,
* Influence donors and policy-makers to formulate evidence informed GBV policies and strategies inclusive of faith
* Develop / build on / share definitions, tools and measures relevant to the faith sector and GBV

Joint and shared learning

* Create a learning community that becomes the go-to place for evidence on faith or religion and GBV
  + Create an online Learning Community through the GBV Hub Forum and social media
* Facilitate spaces and opportunities for collaborative working and sharing of learning between different faith actors and between faith and secular actors
  + Host Advisory Committee meetings to define strategy, review progress and decide actions on a bi-annual basis - one face to face and one virtual
  + Host periodic members’ meetings via conference call or at events to disseminate emerging knowledge, network, and fuel discussions
* Communicate practical, evidence informed actions/practice briefs for faith programmes and policy to encourage JLI members to implement effective strategies related to addressing GBV in their own organisations and use to influence others

Dissemination of research, advocacy & networking

* Create opportunities for hub members to share research, network, and meet with key actors in faith and GBV work
* Promote/advocate for faith and GBV presence at relevant conferences and events
* Support hub members to engage in high level briefings with key stakeholders, policy makers and practitioners
* Explore the use of **webinars and other online mechanisms t**o further engage and equip members to further hub objectives
* Conferences: cultivate a faith and GBV presence at the SVRI Conferences; JLI hub led research to policy makers and faith actors, research report on effective mechanisms and methods of engaging local faith networks Quarterly updates to the [JLI key advocacy opps and meetings](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1l3ylA8mO8rvrrxb0hgazoAdk3exMKUm7ke5lD6BsVew/edit?usp=sharing) and sharing of Hub members’ research, including academic publication but also media articles, blogs etc.
* Communications and evidence informed Talking Points and Presentation templates

## **5. Funding**

* JLI contributes to the core funds for the GBV Hub (for example $2,000 in 2017). With support from JLI, the GBV Hub receives funding from a broad range of funders including but not exclusive to bi-laterals, multi-laterals and international organisations. Previously the hub has gained funding from the UK’s Department of International Development for a study into Harmful Traditional Practices.
* The GBV Hub Secretary with guidance from Advisory Committee will develop a fundraising strategy and continue to seek further funding for Hub activities.
* The Secretary will provide some funding to support hub-secretariat activities such as travel and events, as necessary.

## **6. GBV Hub Governance**

The Hub governance is comprised of Co-chairs; the Secretariat; the Advisory Committee and Hub members. The Secretariat, hosted by Tearfund, manages day-to-day activities with support from the GBV Hub Programme Officer and JLI Knowledge Manager support as needed. (Further details on Governance in Appendix)

The co-chairs will serve for a three-year term (with the possibility of renewing their position once).

## **7. GBV Hub Membership**

Membership of the GBV Hub is open to any practitioner from the worlds of academia, policy and practice, working on aspects of GBV and faith, and includes members from global south and north.Members of are both holders and seekers of evidence, participating actively in the shaping of the Learning Hub itself, the research questions, evidence gathering, resource generating and oversight and contribution to the research outputs of the GBV Hub.

7.1 Expectations of members

* Join the GBV Hub through the [registration form on JLI’s website](http://jliflc.com/user-registration/)
* Suggest other members to assure diverse and inclusive membership, especially from low and middle income settings
* [Suggest and participate in key convenings](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1l3ylA8mO8rvrrxb0hgazoAdk3exMKUm7ke5lD6BsVew/edit#gid=1492016639) for the GBV Hub participation as speakers and presenters
* Promote the work of the hub where relevant and appropriate to funders
* Adhere to key principles, these being: human rights based, evidence informed, community led, ethical, diversity, equity and leave no-one behind.

7.2 Members’ Participation

* Contribute to the knowledge base of the Hub from own experience; share evidence resources with Hub Members
* Participate in hub research activities, including online discussions and the GBV online forum
* Interact with other members to share ideas, work, develop proposals and undertake research, attend conferences, workshops that the JLI GBV Hub identifies as key convenings
* Review drafts of report upon request, and other GBV outputs when needed and securing own organisational sponsorship for reports
* Engage their own networks in dissemination, including in-house briefings on evidence; equipping own leaders with talking points

**8. GBV Hub Governance**

6.1 GBV Hub Advisory Committee

The GBV Hub Advisory Committee is responsible for guiding the strategic direction of the GBV Hub and is led by two co-chairs for a period of two years.[[1]](#footnote-0) Advisory Committee Co-Chairs, along with the GBV Secretariat, are expected to lead and convene the Advisory Committee and assure overall quality of GBV hub work. Along with the expectations of the committee members below, Co-Chairs will participate in quarterly evidence review calls with JLI Leadership.

6.1.1 Advisory Committee Membership

* Consist of 5-7member experts with consideration given to GBV Hub participation
* Draw from GBV Hub members with specific skills, insights and influence that will shape the work and strategy of the GBV Hub.
* Prioritise members from low and middle income regions and ensure that majority representation is not from high-income countries
* Consideration based on active participation in GBV Hub activities, attendance at GBV Hub

6.1.2 Advisory Committee Expectations

* Actively participate in Hub activities and attend in-person meeting annually to review the work of the GBV Hub (subject to the availability of resources)
* Commit a maximum of two weeks annually to the work of the GBV Hub
* Serve for a three-year term (with the possibility of renewing their position once)

6.1.3 Advisory Committee Key responsibilities

* Set strategic goals, formulate research agenda, workplan and direction with Hub Secretariat
* Provide technical support to the GBV Hub and framing of research questions
* Review and approve progress reports and review and contribute to Hub publications where appropriate
* Advocate for the GBV Hub, and actively disseminate Hub outputs to policy makers and practitioners
* Identify opportunities for Hub to engage key stakeholders within own networks to inform policy, practice and academia with Hub outputs
* Suggest other members to assure an inclusive group of experts participate in GBV Hub
* Identify opportunities for Hub funding

6.2 Hub Secretariat

The Secretariat is managed by the Hub Secretary who is the official representative of the host institution. The Secretary is a full voting member of the Advisory Committee.

6.2.1 Functions of the Secretary[[2]](#footnote-1):

* Approve the Terms of Reference for the Memorandum of Understanding between GBV Hub and donors and JLI Hub Leadership
* Provide technical support to the work of the GBV Hub
* Work with JLI KM to develop effective briefs and case materials are drawn from the most current evidence to support briefings
* Manage the GBV hub’s personnel and financial resources by initiating discussions for areas of collaboration and support as well as external funding for the hub and provide oversight of funding proposals, progress reports and financial reports
* Work with Co-charis, Advisory Committee, JLI Leadership, the Programme Officer, and members to make sure that the objectives of the Hub are achieved
* As possible attend quarterly cross hub calls
* Develop funding strategy and funding applications for areas of relevant research (based on framing in Appendix) and receive funding for relevant research

6.2.2 Functions of the Hub Programme Officer

* Prepare the annual work plan and budget and submit it to the Advisory Committee approval
* After the close of each fiscal year, present to the Advisory Committee an annual report on the activities and operations of the Hub
* Prepare the minutes of all Advisory Committee meetings
* Support the work of the Secretariat / Advisory Committee of the Hub
* Ensure the work plan is adequately executed
* Coordinate member engagement

6.3 Key activities of the Knowledge Manager

In close collaboration with the Hub Secretariat, the KM will:

* Facilitate creation of a GBV Hub process to onboard members
* Promote exchange of evidence within the GBV Hub
* Manage member communications and ensure accessibility of Hub evidence to GBV members and JLI network through newsletters and GBV Hub website
* Develop a Communications Plan and dissemination strategy for GBV Hub products
* Organise hub meetings and Advisory Committee meetings, as needed
* Facilitate quarterly engagement with GBV Secretariat and JLI Leadership to ensure the best evidence is available in database and cross hub engagement between hubs with Hub Programme Officer
* Assist with research funding applications; serve as financial intermediary where useful
* Conduct ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the Hub with goal of sustaining the ongoing learning exchange of the community

Strategic Partnerships

The GBV Hub will seek strategic partnerships with those working in the field of GBV and with whom the hub can **share learning with, work collaboratively with and influence**.

* A strategic partner will be defined by the hub as one who is working in the area of GBV, that is well recognised for its contributions in the field of GBV and deemed to be in position of influence to external stakeholders.
* A strategic partner should be selected by a member(s) of the GBV hub and agreed on by the wider members of the hub.
* Criteria to include: a partner with high esteem and of influence in the area of GBV work; potential areas of collaboration between the GBV hub and partner; whose expertise can deepen the hub’s knowledge and contribution to the area of GBV and increase the potential to influence stakeholders.

**References**

Le Roux, Elisabet. “A Scoping Study on the Role of Faith Communities and Organisations in Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence: Implications for Policy and Practice.” The Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities, 2015.

## **Resources**

# Evidence Brief 3: Faith communities are key actors in empowering and protecting girls and addressing gender-based violence, 2016: <https://jliflc.com/resources/evidence-brief-3-faith-communities-key-actors-empowering-protecting-girls-addressing-gender-based-violence/>

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# Getting dirty: Working with Faith Leaders to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence, 2016:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15570274.2016.1215837?journalCode=rfia20>

Harmful Traditional Practices resources, 2017: http://gender-based-violence.jliflc.com/htp-study

1. The convening co-chairs of the JLI GBV Learning Hub Advisory Committee will be Elizabeth Dartnall (Senior Research Manager, Sexual Violence Research Initiative, Gender and Health Research Unit, South African Medical Research Council) and Diana Jimena Arango (Sr Gender-based Violence and Development Specialist World Bank) [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. Hub Secretary: Prabu Deepan, Tearfund (Team Leader Gender and Protection Team), Co-chair of We Will Speak Out coalition. This is a part post that reports directly to JLI Leadership. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)