**NIHR Global Health Research on Violence against Women and Girls**

The NIHR Global Health Research on Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) is an international collaborative initiative funded by the National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR), UK. The programme brings together experts, researchers, and stakeholders to generate evidence, foster innovation, and strengthen responses to gender-based violence across diverse contexts.

**Our Work Packages**

The project is structured into five work packages (WPs), each addressing a key dimension of VAWG research and intervention:

WP 1: Developing diverse, representative, and inclusive survivor panels

Research Leads: -

1. **Mrs.Purathani Mathanaranjan, Senior** Lecturer, Department of Law, University of Jaffna
2. Dr.(Mrs).Dilogini Sangarathas Senior Lecturer, Department of Marketing, University of Jaffna.

WP 2: Understanding the healthcare burden

Research Lead:

1. Dr.P.A.D.Coonghe, Senior Lecturer, Department of Community and Family Medicine, Faculty of medicine, University of Jaffna.

WP 3: Describing the economic cost of inaction

Research Lead:

1. Prof. Shivany Shanmugathas, Head, Department of Marketing, Faculty of management Studies and Commerce, University of Jaffna.

WP 4: Identifying what works to prevent violence

Research Leads:

1. Dr. Fathima Fazla Ahamed Fayaz, Research Fellow Department of Applied Health Sciences, University of Birmingham.
2. Dr. U.Mayorathan, Consultant Forensic pathologist, teaching Hospital, Jaffna*.*

WP 5: Knowledge exchange and training

As part of this global collaboration, pre-arranged project meetings were held on 14–15 May 2025 in the UK under the title: “NIHR Global Health Research Group on Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children: University of Birmingham/University of Cape Town in partnership with the Lancet Commission.” These discussions, attended by Prof.R.Surenthirakumaran (country lead) and Dr.P.A.D.Coonghe, provided valuable insights and direction for the ongoing work of the project.

**Local Engagement**

The Centre for Digital Epidemiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna organized a Stakeholders’ Meeting on 25 September 2025 as part of Work Package 1.

* Objective: Establish a Survivor Panel for Gender-Based Violence against Women and Girls in the Northern Province.
* Venue: Board Room, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna.
* Time: 9:30 AM

This event marked a promising and innovative first step towards building a collaborative platform to address gender-based violence.