

Call for Expressions of Interest

Researcher – VOICE-UP Project

Be part of research that transforms lived experience into meaningful change

The St Jeanne Antide Foundation (SJAF) is seeking to engage an independent **Researcher** to support the implementation of:

VOICE-UP – Validating Outcomes and Informing Change through Survivor Engagement and User-informed Policy

Funded under the *Together We Empower – A Future Without Violence Programme*, the project is supported by the **Commission on Gender-Based Violence & Domestic Violence and the Parliamentary Secretary for Reforms & Equality**.

VOICE-UP aims to strengthen survivor-centred responses to domestic violence in Malta through research, advocacy, and awareness. The project seeks to better understand the barriers survivors encounter when seeking support and to translate these insights into practical recommendations for policy, professional practice, and service development.

The research component will build on findings from SJAF's previous survivor questionnaire and will involve trauma-informed focus groups and interviews with participants already engaged in SJAF's SOAR service.

Role Overview

SJAF is seeking a researcher with experience in qualitative research and trauma-informed engagement with vulnerable groups.

The selected researcher will lead the research component of the project and support the development of a final research outcome report and position paper aimed at strengthening survivor-centred and trauma-informed approaches within domestic violence support systems.

The researcher will work closely with the Project Coordinator and SJAF team throughout the implementation period.

Scope of Work

The selected researcher will be expected to:

- Review existing findings collected through SJAF's survivor questionnaire
- Develop an appropriate qualitative research methodology
- Prepare interview and/or focus group guidance tools
- Facilitate two trauma-informed focus groups and two in-depth interviews with participants linked to the SOAR service
- Ensure that research processes adhere to ethical standards, confidentiality, and safeguarding principles

- Conduct qualitative analysis of the data collected
- Draft a final research outcome report recommendations and survivor-informed position paper
- Develop practical recommendations linked to domestic violence support systems, barriers to access, and trauma-informed practice
- Participate in coordination meetings with SJAF where required

Ethical and Safeguarding Considerations

Given the sensitive nature of the project, the research must adopt a trauma-informed and participant-centred approach.

Participants involved in the research will already be engaged with SJAF's SOAR service and will have access to ongoing support throughout the process. The researcher will therefore be expected to work collaboratively with SJAF to ensure that interviews and focus groups are conducted respectfully and in ways that minimise the risk of re-traumatisation.

Where required, the researcher must also demonstrate awareness of ethical approval procedures, informed consent processes, confidentiality obligations, and applicable data protection requirements.

Profile of the Ideal Candidate

Applicants should demonstrate:

Essential

- A recognised qualification in social sciences, psychology, criminology, social policy, social work, counselling, or another related field
- Demonstrated experience in qualitative research methodologies, including interviews and/or focus groups
- Experience conducting research or professional work related to gender-based violence, domestic violence, trauma, vulnerable groups, or victim support
- Strong analytical, report writing, and communication skills
- Ability to conduct research in a sensitive, ethical, and trauma-informed manner
- Awareness of safeguarding, confidentiality, and ethical considerations when engaging with vulnerable participants
- A sound knowledge of English and Maltese language

Desirable

- Experience in survivor-centred or trauma-informed research approaches
- Familiarity with the domestic violence support context in Malta
- Experience drafting research reports, policy papers, or recommendations intended for service development or advocacy
- Knowledge of ethical approval procedures and data protection requirements

Engagement Details

- **Duration:** June 2026 – October 2026
- **Estimated Input:** Approximately 220 hours
- **Type of Engagement:** Service contract / freelance basis

Expected Deliverables

The selected researcher will contribute towards the following outputs:

- Research methodology and interview/focus group framework
- Facilitation of two (2) focus groups and (2) interviews
- Qualitative analysis of findings
- Final research outcome report
- Survivor-informed position paper with recommendations

How to Apply

Interested applicants are invited to submit:

- A CV
- A brief expression of interest outlining relevant experience and motivation
- Examples of previous research work or publications (where available)

Applications should be sent to: **info@antidemalta.org**

Subject line: **Researcher – VOICE-UP Project**

Deadline: 12th June 2026

Our Commitment

At SJAF, we believe in working alongside individuals and communities with dignity, respect, and compassion. We are committed to ensuring that research involving survivors is conducted ethically, safely, and meaningfully.

Funding Acknowledgement

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