



UKRI fellowships 2026

Fellowship title: Youth Endowment Fund VAWG Fellowship

Fellowship type: What Works Innovation Fellowship

Host organisation: [Youth Endowment Fund](#) (YEF)

Host team: Evidence & Understanding

Summary: The Fellowship will support YEF in developing the evidence on what works to prevent VAWG perpetration among young people, as part of our mission to prevent children and young people's involvement in violence. It will also play a major role in YEF's contribution to the National What Works Programme to tackle VAWG, coordinated by the Cabinet Office and UKRI.

Policy topic: Safer Streets – Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls

Academic discipline/s: criminology and law; gender studies; behavioural science; psychology; public policy; economics; epidemiology; public health; and data science.

Research career stage: Open to all career stages

Fellowship structure

Inception phase:

Estimated start date: 4 January 2027

Duration: 3 months

FTE: 0.4 FTE

Main placement phase:

Duration: 12 months

FTE: 0.6-1 FTE

Knowledge exchange phase:

Duration: 3 months

FTE: 0.4 FTE

Work arrangements

Location requirements: Our office is at 1st Floor, 64 Great Eastern Street, London, EC2A 3QR

Hybrid working: Full-time YEF staff living in and around London are expected to be in the office for a minimum of 2 days per week. Those living outside of London and working remotely are expected to work from the London office 2 days per month.

The Fellow would be expected to travel twice a month to the office throughout all stages of the Fellowship. As part of our commitment to flexible working, we will consider a range of options for the successful applicant. All options can be discussed with the Fellow.

Security clearance: No security clearances are required to start the role. Depending on the development of the research, a basic DBS may be required.

Fellowship Description

YEF's mission is to prevent children and young people becoming involved in violence. We do this by finding out what works and building a movement to put this knowledge into practice. You can read more about how we work here: [Our strategy | Youth Endowment Fund](#)

This Fellowship will contribute to YEF's work to fund new research to fill gaps in our understanding of what works to prevent violence against young women and girls (VAWG) and turn this evidence into actionable recommendations and sustainable change that will keep children safe from VAWG.

Potential research projects the Fellow might lead could cover questions including:

- What are the risk and protective factors associated with perpetration of VAWG amongst young people, with a possible focus on online harms?
- What does the evidence base tell us about what works to prevent VAWG perpetration, across different types of VAWG, for children and young people?
- To what extent does current practice match the evidence on what works to reduce VAWG?

YEF has an ambitious plan of work for the next eighteen months which the Fellow would play a key role contributing to. Depending on the Fellows skills, capacity and experience, the work could involve:

- Leading on specific research projects identified through YEF's existing review of evidence gaps and priorities for research. We are particularly interested in developing evidence around online harms and tech-facilitated VAWG affecting young people.
- Working with the Data and Insight team to develop YEF's annual [Child Vulnerability and Violence survey](#) (CVV) and analysing previous CVV data to address VAWG-relevant research questions.
- Supporting the Toolkit team to summarise the best available research about different approaches to preventing violence affecting young people, including reviewing existing approaches in the YEF [Toolkit](#) to understand which approaches are likely to have the greatest impact in protecting children and young people from VAWG.
- Reviewing evidence on current VAWG prevention practice across England and Wales to inform potential programme development and evaluation design.
- Managing or supporting forthcoming YEF-commissioned [secondary data analysis](#) projects on VAWG.

Over the next two years our change strategy will focus on creating VAWG practice and systems recommendations, and developing practical tools, guidance and resources that help leaders put evidence into action. The Fellow will support the development of accessible outputs that will help leaders across sectors put evidence into practice and strengthen collective efforts to prevent VAWG amongst young people.

The Fellow will work closely with colleagues in our Evidence and Understanding team and be line-managed by YEF's VAWG Lead. As well as a structured induction programme, the Fellow will have access to a range of other development opportunities, including a series of events and training throughout the year, as well as opportunities to engage with a wide network of practitioners, policymakers, and researchers working to prevent violence affecting children and young people.

The Fellow will also be supported to spend dedicated time participating in the development of a national What Works Programme to tackle violence against women and girls, for example through collaborative activities with the wider What Works Innovation Fellowship cohort, the Cabinet Office Evaluation Task Force, and the UKRI R&D Missions Accelerator Programme's VAWG Challenge.

Person Specification

Applications will be assessed by a selection panel against the following essential opportunity-specific requirements in addition to the generic eligibility and call criteria.

Essential Criteria:

- Academic background in criminology and law; gender studies; behavioural science; psychology; public policy; economics; epidemiology; public health; and data science - with either quantitative and/or qualitative social research methods experience.
- Proficiency in the specific method relevant to the research. We are interested in candidates with experience of methods such as evidence synthesis (e.g., systematic reviews); data analysis; and survey design.
- Understanding of the evidence base relating to violence against girls and young women as well as general sector context, including violence affecting young people.
- Excellent report writing/presentation skills
- A commitment to, and interest in, the aims of the YEF/What Works Network
- Ability to act on own initiative, with agility and flexibility
- Willingness to collaborate as part of a high-functioning team
- Ability to engage effectively and credibly with a range of stakeholders – both internal and external
- Experience leading, or contributing to, knowledge exchange activities

Shortlisted applicants will also be assessed at the host led interview selection process against the following desirable opportunity-specific requirements.

Desirable Criteria:

- Experience engaging with policymakers and practitioners to disseminate the findings of robust evidence (e.g., randomised controlled trials, quasi-experimental designs) and/or implementation and process evaluations
- Experience of primary research and the appropriate design and selection of methodologies when conducting evidence generation activities