I am writing to apply for the Research Associate position in the NIHR Global Health Research Group on Violence Against Women and Mental Health and respectfully request that you consider the following information consideration as well as my *curriculum vitae* and the attached documents*.*

As a clinical social worker, a young scholar, and a woman, the possibility of working with your Group presents an incomparable opportunity to apply my combination of research and scholarly knowledge and practical, clinical skills to help advance this important and vital project on an area of growing social concern so close to my own research, work experience and vision of helping the vulnerable, especially women and children, who have suffered from violence and conflict.

I am currently a researcher and lecturer at the Department of Social Work at Ben-Gurion University, where I teach various modules in both Bachelor and Master programmes, including ones covering methods in social work practice, and mental health among children, adolescents and families at risk. I believe that my extensive experience and wide-ranging knowledge in the field of mental health in relation to violence against vulnerable children in low-income and conflict-afflicted areas provides me with the background and skills needed to contribute to the Group.

With Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctoral degrees in Social Work, specialising in children and the family from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, I have gained extensive research and clinical experience. My field of research in risk and protective factors relating to violence and anti-social behaviour among children and adolescents, and the consequences for the child's social and psychological well-being, mainly in conflict-affected settings in the Middle East, is well-aligned with the work of your Group. In addition, my research focusing on bullying (including cyberbullying) and substance use among young people in defined communities are key contemporary issues of concern throughout the world and could add an important dimension to your work.

I have also served as a visiting researcher at the University of Oxford’s Department of Social Policy and Intervention, Centre for Evidence-Based Intervention (CEBI), where I was part of an interdisciplinary team evaluating the effectiveness of the Parenting for Lifelong Health programme to prevent child abuse and maltreatment among families in low and-medium income countries, mainly in Africa. This experience not only demonstrates my success in working as part of an interdisciplinary team, but also resulted a paper with serious theoretical and practical findings that was published in *BMC Public Health* (see attached).

My strong record of published peer-reviewed papers demonstrates that I can significantly contribute to the project’s data analysis work. Although my previous research has mainly been based on quantitative methods, I have experience in qualitative methods, and I look forward to enriching this experience and learning further.

I believe that the skills that I have developed during my academic career, notably in designing and evaluating interventions for vulnerable groups, enable me to play a meaningful role in undertaking the practical reviews in the field, carrying out qualitative research, and supporting public engagement activities.

Furthermore, with a practical background as well in social work, I have dealt extensively with domestic violence survivors in East Jerusalem, including women and children dealing with trauma, which has given me a unique perspective that enables me to devise realistic proposals for helping victims of violence and conflict in the vulnerable areas under study in your Group.

As a young woman from an ethnic minority and as a social worker, I strongly believe that research is empowering act in itself that can make the voices of society’s most vulnerable groups forcefully heard. I am eager to join in the work of your Group and apply my knowledge, high-level research, and scholarly skills, as well as pursue my passions, in an interdisciplinary, collaborative, intellectual environment with colleagues sharing my interests and goals.

Being able to join this important project would empower me even more to help families thrive through implementing effective approaches to acute social problems, and translate my knowledge into positive social change.

Thank you for considering my application and please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Adeem Massarwi