Personal statement –

 Based on the instructions, the personal statement should address these points:

1. Why you are interested in applying for this post

2. How my skills, achievements, qualities and experience and personal qualities make me suitable for this job.

3. What contribution I would expect to make if appointed

I wish to apply for the Research Associate position in the NIHR Global Health Research Group on Violence Against Women and Mental Health and respectfully ask you to take the following information into consideration as well as my *curriculum vitae* and the attached documents*.*

As a clinical social worker, a woman, and a young researcher, it would be a tremendous opportunity for me to join a challenging project that, nonetheless, has such an important impact internationally on an area of great and growing social concern. I believe that my research and personal experience in this field would add a new and positive dimension to the work of the group.

My experience and knowledge in the field of mental health in relation to violence against vulnerable children in low-income and conflict-affected settings provides me with the means to contribute to the work of the group in this vital area. It would, furthermore, help me to practically contribute to the protection of women and children faced with these challenges, something which I feel passionately about.

I have Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctoral degrees in Social Work specialising in children and family from the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. My field of research is in risk and protective factors in relation 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. I developed my interests in this critical area during my PhD studies, based on my practical experience as a social worker. I have discussed and elaborated on the outcomes from my doctoral dissertation in three peer-reviewed papers (see publications 2-4 enclosed with CV).

As a social worker, I have worked extensively with domestic violence survivors in East Jerusalem, including women and children dealing with trauma. I based my practice on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and social empowerment approaches and fund these to be most effective in these areas.

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, mental health among children, adolescents and families at risk.

I worked, prior to this, as a visiting researcher at the University of Oxford’s Department of Social Policy and Intervention, Centre for Evidence-Based Intervention (CEBI). I was part of an interdisciplinary team evaluating the effectiveness of the Parenting for Lifelong Health programme that aims to prevent child abuse and maltreatment among families in low and-medium income countries mainly in Africa. I have attached my recent publication in *BMC Public Health* for your reference as it highlights my key findings from this experience and illustrates the personal and collective value I observed in working in such an interdisciplinary team, both in achieving practical results and dealing with intellectual challenges.

I believe that the skills that I have developed during my academic career, notably in designing and evaluating interventions for vulnerable groups, would make a strong contribution to this project. My strong record of published peer-reviewed papers also demonstrates that I can significantly contribute to the project’s data analysis work and manuscripts for publication in high quality journals.

I acknowledge that my research to this point has been mainly based on quantitative methods, but I would emphasise that I do have solid experience in using qualitative methods and would relish the opportunity to enrich my experience in this regard to serve the project’s important aims.

As a young woman from an ethnic minority and as a social worker, I strongly believe that research is empowering act in itself that serves to make the voices of the most vulnerable groups in society forcefully heard. I believe that joining 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.

Personal qualities: motivation, like being part of intellectual environment, excellence in research and academic work, dreamer with a vision – ambitious, striving to learn and expand horizons all the time, responsible person. Good in work as part of team, mainly interdisciplinary teams.