

## – SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT –

Thank you for booking, we look forward to seeing you at this event!  
Before we do, we wanted to provide you with a few details about the safety of the space.

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### **Event details:**

#### ***Literature and Sexual Trauma: Authors Writing Their Lived Experience*** **Public Panel Event**

Wednesday 14 April 2021

5.00-6.30pm BST

Online

Age guidance: 18 yrs+

#### **Panel:**

Winnie M Li, Author and Activist, London School of Economics, Clear Lines Festival

Shivane Ramlochan, Poet and Essayist

Susan J Brison, Memoirist and Professor of Philosophy, Dartmouth College

Una, Artist and Writer

In this unique online discussion, a distinguished panel of award-winning authors will speak about transforming their own lived experiences of sexual violence into different forms of literature. Memoirist and academic Susan J Brison, poet Shivane Ramlochan, and graphic writer Una will speak with SHaME Writer-in-Residence, novelist Winnie M Li, for an authentic discussion about trauma, writing, and recovery.

The act of writing has long been a vital means of self-expression when confronting the trauma of sexual violence and abuse. As artists and communicators, perhaps writers are uniquely placed to illuminate the psychological landscape behind this kind of lived experience. But the journey from the raw experience of victimhood to authoring one's own narrative can be different for each individual. By bringing together a poet, graphic writer, memoirist, and novelist we hope to understand how these various forms of creative writing allowed each survivor to tell their stories of sexual abuse/assault in different ways.

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As you might expect, this event will address difficult topics, which might feel overwhelming. We know that some of our discussions will be hard to bear: please remember it is normal to feel sad, angry, distressed, during or after this event.

A chat moderator will make sure that everyone can participate and feel safe; we reserve the right to eject anyone from the space who espouses any criminal, oppressive, or disrespectful comments or questions.

Where possible, we will do our best to avoid graphic descriptions and distressing details. However, some images or details will still refer to events of sexual violence. We are conscious that our audience members may have experiences of their own and feel very strongly about these issues.

Some of the questions we will be discussing are:

- What literary and ethical choices do authors face when drawing upon their own life experiences of sexual harms?
- How can a particular form of writing allow each survivor to convey the mental health and bodily impacts of trauma, and the recovery from it?
- How does one emotionally navigate the reception and reaction to your writing going public?
- How can creative writing illuminate the experience of sexual violence in ways that academic, legal, or medical studies can't?

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If you feel distressed by the content of the event, you can:

- You can leave the event to **have a break at any time**, breathe, drink a glass of water, talk to someone you trust, or any other reassuring activity you can think of.
- If you are in the UK, you can **call the National Rape Crisis Helpline** on 0808 802 9999, for confidential emotional support. The helpline is open every day between 12-2.30pm and 7-9.30pm, calls are free of charge, and the number will not appear on your bill.
- If you are joining from elsewhere in the world, you can **consult this guide for resources available in your country**: <https://osapr.harvard.edu/international-resources-0> (Please note this list is not exhaustive and was not compiled by us).
- You can always **rejoin the event when you feel better and ready**, or not return if you prefer.

Following the event, you will be sent a feedback form.

Please feel free to give us suggestions on how we could have handled things differently.

Many thanks for support from:

Please note that we won't cover every topic related to this issue, as this is a broad field of study. If some of your questions were left unanswered, feel free to write to us or to take a look at our website, where we have put bibliographies and open-access resources:

<https://shame.bbk.ac.uk>

Thank you!

SHaME Research Hub  
Birkbeck, University of London

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*Many thanks for support from:*

