

Title of Project: *The Role of Social Categorisation in Predicting and Mobilising Online and Offline Support for Female Domestic Abuse Victims in the UK, Pakistan/India and Greece.*

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Research Ethics Committee Reference Number: 25/PSY/014

You are being invited to take part in a research project. You do not have to take part if you do not want to. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether you wish to take part.

1. What is the purpose of the project?

Some form of Domestic Abuse may be experienced by women during their lives. This contributes to these individuals suffering from mental health issues, societal problems including social exclusion, societal pressure based on cultural background, drug abuse, depression, and anxiety. Not everyone will offer support to victims if they were to witness a domestic abuse scenario themselves based on several factors such as the victims' background, the scenario, their own personal background etc.

Based on this, research has shown that the categories people identify themselves in can help researchers determine the type of support/intervention that will be offered by bystanders (if any) and how they will relate to the domestic abuse victim/s. This research explores individual's behavioural intentions to determine emotions and perceptions of perpetrators and attackers in a domestic abuse situation through one-to-one interviews.

2. Why have I been invited to participate?

You have been identified as a potential participant because you responded to an email from your tutor or supervisor at your university, are over the age of 18 and can verbally communicate in English. To take part in this project, you must have experience of being a bystander to a domestic abuse situation. You must not participate if talking about your experience will cause you any distress. A total of 45 participants will be recruited for these interviews across India, Pakistan, UK and Greece.

3. Do I have to take part?

No. You can ask questions about the project before deciding whether to take part. If you do not want to take part that is OK. Your consent will be audio recorded separately from the interview recording prior to the interviews taking place. You can stop being part of the project at any time, without giving a reason. You may withdraw from the project by informing the researcher at any time.

4. What will happen to me if I take part?

If you decide to participate in the study, you will be invited via email to participate in a one-to-one interview with the researcher. The interviews will take place using MS Teams and should take approximately 30 minutes. You will be offered regular breaks as necessary. The interview will discuss behavioural intentions to a domestic abuse situation. Specifically, you will be asked questions following a short verbal or video description of the abuse. The video being used in the study will be presented on the screen during the interview and will be muted

to avoid any distress that can be caused from the sound. Additionally, the video element in this research involves participants watching real CCTV footage of a domestic abuse vignette and these being described explicitly using text. This topic might be considered sensitive due to the nature of the topic and therefore, if at any point in the interview you do not wish to continue, you can inform the researcher. Please remember, you have the right to decline to answer any questions you do not want to, and you can also ask to pause or stop the interview at any time, and we can reschedule if needed.

With this in mind, please consider your privacy when being interviewed so that nobody can overhear your answers. Before the interview, we will discuss what to do if privacy is compromised and how to answer questions or respond to other people if they interrupt the project session in any way (e.g. someone else speaks in the audio). During the interview we will ensure privacy is maintained by making sure you are in a safe and private environment and the camera is always switched off.

5. Will I be photographed, or video/audio recorded and how will the recorded media be used?

The audio recording is essential to your participation, but you should be comfortable with the process. You are free to stop the recording at any time and therefore withdraw your participation. The audio recordings of your activities made during this project will be used only for analysis. No other use will be made of them.

6. Are there any possible disadvantages or risks in taking part?

If participation in this study has negative effects on you; please seek help and advice from support services as listed below depending on the country, you are situated in:

- United Kingdom – <https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/>
- Pakistan – <https://www.vsointernational.org/>
- India - <https://www.domesticshelters.org/en-in/domestic-abuse-help-in-india>
- Greece - <https://womensos.gr/en/about-us-3/>

You can also seek further advice from your University Student Support services.

The procedures involved in this project maybe emotionally stressful – this may manifest as the interview progresses and certain scenarios and questions are discussed. You should not participate if you do not wish to be emotionally stressed. The study will expose you to minimal negative materials such as texts and a video. Please do not participate if you do not wish to be exposed to negative material.

7. Are there any benefits in taking part?

There will be no direct or personal benefit for those participating in this research. The potential or hoped for benefits of the study for the wider society is the research of the novel topic and the hope for the study of further interventions in relation to Domestic Abuse.

8. What information will be collected and what will happen to information/data provided?

Any information/data from which you can be identified (e.g. from identifiers such as your name, date of birth, audio recording etc.), is known as **personal data**. We will keep all information about you safe and secure. People who do not need to know who you are will not be able to see your name or contact details. The personal data collected will include:

- A record of consent (which will include your name).
- Contact Details.

- Project data. We will use a code/pseudonym so that you cannot be directly identified from the data. The project data will include an audio recording[s], which include your voice only. Interview recordings will be deleted once the interview transcript has been verified as accurate and an evaluation has determined that it has no further value.

Once we have finished the study, we will keep some of the data so we can check the results. Identifiable project data will be stored securely at LJMU for the duration of the project – unless there is no need for the data to be identifiable, at which point it will be made anonymous. Other project data (including consent forms) or project data that needs to be identifiable, will be stored securely at LJMU for three years after publication or public release of the work. We will not attempt to capture the IP address or any other information that is not voluntarily provided. Data may be stored on backups or server logs beyond the timeframe of this project.

Limits to confidentiality

- Please note that confidentiality will be maintained as far as it is possible, unless during our conversation I hear anything which makes me worried that someone might be in danger of harm, I might have to inform relevant agencies of this.
- Confidentiality will be respected subject to legal constraints and professional guidelines.
- Confidentiality will be respected unless there are compelling and legitimate reasons for this to be breached. If this was the case, we would inform you of any decisions that might limit your confidentiality.

9. What are your choices about how your information is used?

- You can stop being part of the project at any time, without giving a reason, but we will keep information about you that we already have.
- You have the right to ask us to remove, change or delete data we hold about you for the purposes of the project. We might not always be able to do this if it means we cannot use your data to do the research. If so, we will tell you why we cannot do this
- Data can be withdrawn until one week after the interview has taken place without giving a reason and without prejudice. *If possible*, all identifiable data collected would be withdrawn from the project. No further data would be collected, or any other procedures would be carried out on or in relation to you.

10. Will the project be published? Could I be identified from any publications or other outputs?

The findings from the project will be written up in a thesis, and potential academic publications. We will write our reports in a way that no-one can work out that you took part in the project, and we would like your permission to use direct quotations but without identifying you in any outputs. The investigator will work with the participant to minimise and manage the potential for indirect identification of participants and will seek explicit consent from you ahead of any publication if the investigators think there is the potential for you to be indirectly identifiable. However, you should not participate if the potential to be indirectly identifiable in outputs is not acceptable to you.

A copy of my thesis will be deposited online in the LJMU archive where it will be publicly available to facilitate its use in future projects/ its access will be restricted.

11. Data Protection

Liverpool John Moores University is the data controller with respect to your personal data and as such will determine how your personal data is used in the project. The University will process your personal data for the purpose of the project outlined above. Research/evaluation is a task that is performed in the public interest. You can find out more about how we use your information:

- the LJM [Privacy Notice for Research Participants](https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/legal/privacy-notice-and-cookies/external-stakeholders-privacy-policy/research-participants-privacy-notice) (<https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/legal/privacy-notice-and-cookies/external-stakeholders-privacy-policy/research-participants-privacy-notice>)
- The LJM Data Protection Officer is Tina Forrester (DPO@ljmu.ac.uk)

12. Who is organising the project?

This project is organised by Liverpool John Moores University.

13. Whom do I contact if I have a concern about the project or wish to complain?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this project, please contact **Marek Palace** (m.palace@ljmu.ac.uk) and we will do our best to answer your query. You should expect a reply within 10 working days. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the Chair of the Research Ethics Committee at Liverpool John Moores University who will seek to resolve the matter as soon as possible:

Chair, Liverpool John Moores University Research Ethics Committee; Email: FullReviewUREC@ljmu.ac.uk; Tel: 0151 231 2121; Research Innovation Services, Liverpool John Moores University, Exchange Station, Liverpool L2 2QP

14. Contact details.

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Please consider retaining a copy of this information sheet for your future reference.