

University of California, Los Angeles

## **CONSENT FOR ADULTS TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH**

### *All Survivors Project*

Lara Stemple, B.A., J.D. Director, Health and Human Rights Law Project at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and Andrew Park, International Program Director, from the Williams Institute, School of Law at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) are conducting a research study.

You were selected as a possible participant in this study because you have specific knowledge and understanding about sexual violence against males in this country as a witness, survivor or institutional actor and will provide key information for this research project. Your participation in this research study is voluntary.

### **Why is this study being done?**

The global response to sexual violence in situations of conflict and displacement has, until now, focused on girls and women. Boys and men are also affected by, and in some cases directly targeted with, sexual violence. So far, an inclusive response on the issue of sexual violence in situations of conflict and displacement is absent.

This study will research and analyse sexual and gender-based violence against boys and men in situations of armed conflict and displacement. The study will produce a series of national situational analysis reports on sexual and gender-based violence against men and boys. Sexual violence against male transgender and gay or bisexual male survivors in situations of conflict and displacement will be included. The reports will make recommendations for programmatic, legal and policy responses on the issue of sexual and gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict and displacement.

### **What will happen if I take part in this research study?**

If you volunteer to participate in this study, the researcher will ask you to do the following:

- Read the consent form carefully to understand the focus of the study and expectations of the researcher. If you find reading difficult, the researcher or translator will read the consent form for you;
- Verbally agreed to consent;
- Provide the researcher with your preference to be interviewed by a male or female interviewer and interpreter. Whenever possible the researcher will make all efforts to comply with your request;
- Plan and make logistical arrangements (for example child care, absence from work/home) to ensure you are able to participate in the study;

- Agree to non-identifiable information being audio recorded by the researcher;
- Provide the researcher with location suggestions which you feel are secure, private, comfortable and easiest for you to arrive at by transport to participate in the study;
- Tell the researcher the cost of transport to the desired location and the cost of your meals so that the researcher can reimburse you;
- Provide the researcher with personal data (for example date of birth, address, employer details) on the condition that the researcher will retain this information confidentially;
- Agree to answer specific questions related to the objectives of the study, although you maintain the right not to answer a specific question or to end the interview at any point.

### **How long will I be in the research study?**

You will be in the research study for a maximum of three hours.

### **Are there any potential risks or discomforts that I can expect from this study?**

You can anticipate the following risks from participation in the study:

- Risks of stigma if others learn about an experience of sexual violence perpetrated towards you;
- Risks to safety and security as a result of being identified by a perpetrator or a party linked to the perpetrator as a witness or victim of a human rights violation;
- Risks of retaliation by family members who feel dishonoured by the violence and by information about the violence being shared externally;
- Risks of coercive pressure on victims to marry assailants or lie about what happened;
- Risks of punishment or arrest of victims in situations where sexual conduct outside marriage, or homosexual relations, are stigmatised or criminalised.
- Risks of distress and/or re-traumatisation on account of recalling and describing events you have personally witnessed or suffered.

We will manage these risks by conducting interviews in safe, secure and private spaces where the confidentiality of information you share is protected.

We will ensure that psychosocial support and counselling is available if required. Referral to medical care or further support services will be facilitated by the researcher if required.

Your participation is voluntary. You can choose to end the interview at any point in the process or refuse to answer any question.

### **Are there any potential benefits if I participate?**

You will not directly benefit from participation in research. There are no foreseeable individual benefits for participating.

### **Will I be paid for participating?**

You will be reimbursed for travel costs and will be provided with the cost of your meals but will not receive payment for participating in the research.

### **Will information about me and my participation be kept confidential?**

Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can identify you will remain confidential. It will be disclosed only with your permission. Your participation in this research will be completely anonymous. Personal identifiable information will be collected from you but will be safely stored and not shared with anyone.

It is possible that identifiable information shared with the researcher may be recorded through an audio recorder. Participants will be offered the option of reviewing, editing and erasing the tapes at the end of the interview.

### **What are my rights if I take part in this study?**

- You can choose whether or not you want to be in this study, and you may withdraw your consent and discontinue participation at any time;
- Whatever decision you make, there will be no penalty to you, and no loss of benefits to which you were otherwise entitled;
- You may refuse to answer any questions that you do not want to answer and still remain in the study;
- You will be asked a set of questions when you agree to participate. Your answers to these questions may be recorded. However, you can review, edit and erase the tapes/recordings on completion of the interview. You can choose to end the interview at any point, withdraw consent and discontinue participation and ask for the recordings to be erased.

***You will be given a copy of this information to keep for your records. All Survivors Project will be making anonymised information received during the course of this study public. If you think that possession of a written consent form could endanger you please let us know and we will not provide you with a written document to take home.***

***Thank you for your time and contribution to this study.***