

## Participant Information Sheet – Focus Group

**Project Title:** Living with the Impact of Intimate Partner Violence: A Cross-Case Analysis of the Experiences and Support Needs of Older Women.

**Researcher:** Margaret Conroy

I would like to invite you to take part in a research study which is part of my PhD in the Department of Sociology at the University of Lancaster. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

### What is the purpose of the study?

This study aims to look at the experiences of older women who have been or still are in an abusive relationship with a partner alongside having health and social care needs. It will also be looking closely at how the different professionals and voluntary agencies work together to support older women in this specific context.

### Why Have I been asked to participate?

You have been asked to consider participating in the study as your work brings you into contact with older women who may possibly be a victim/survivor of domestic abuse. We would like to explore your thoughts and possible experiences around dealing with domestic abuse in this age group.

### Do I have to take part?

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you are under no obligation to participate. If you do not wish to participate, you do not have to give a reason as to why.

### Can I withdraw from the study at any time?

You can withdraw from the study without having to give a reason, at any point before or up to when the recording of the session has started, after which withdrawal will not be possible. This is because your data is part of the ongoing conversation and cannot be destroyed. The researcher will try to disregard your views when analysing the focus group data, but this will not always be possible.

### What will taking part involve for me?

This part of the study would involve you participating in a one-off, focus group of between 8-10 other professionals/service providers. **You do not have to have had experience with women who have been through abuse to participate.** The focus group will take place at a pre-booked room (venue to be confirmed) and should take

no longer than an hour. The researcher will guide the group discussions and it will be very informal. The researcher asks that you arrive about 15 minutes before the focus group starts and you have the option to remain behind after the end of the session for a debrief should you feel that you need this.

The researcher will need to video record the focus group so that she is able to watch and listen repeatedly to what is being said. This footage will be deleted upon completion of the study.

The research will be written up into a final report and a summary will be presented at local events and published in relevant professional journals.

### **How will the information that I have given be protected and stored?**

The information you provide is confidential. The data collected from the focus group will be stored on university approved secure cloud storage in accordance with Lancaster University guidelines. The transcript from the focus group will be made anonymous by removing any identifying information including your name. Following transcription, the video footage will be permanently deleted. Anonymised direct quotations may be used in the reports or publications from the study.

Due to the nature of the group session, the researcher cannot guarantee complete confidentiality. All those taking part in the focus group will be asked to respect each other's confidentiality before the focus group begins.

For further information about how Lancaster University processes personal data for research purposes and your data rights please visit our webpage: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/research/data-protection](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/research/data-protection).

### **Are there any risks?**

There is the possibility that the focus group may initiate upsetting feelings for you. If this should happen there is a list of contact details attached where local, specialist support can be sought.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

You may not derive any benefit from participating in this study. You may possibly find it helpful to have an opportunity outside your work environment, to reflect upon your practice alongside other professionals.

### **Where can I obtain further information about the study if I need it?**

If you have any questions about the study, please contact the main researcher in the first instance:

**Margaret Conroy** Email: [m.conroy@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:m.conroy@lancaster.ac.uk)

Or the researcher's supervisors:

**Professor Corinne May-Chahal** Email: [c.may-chahal@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:c.may-chahal@lancaster.ac.uk).

**Dr Hannah Morgan** Email: [h.morgan@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:h.morgan@lancaster.ac.uk)

### **Complaints**

If you wish to make a complaint or raise concerns about any aspect of this study and do not want to speak to the researcher, you can contact:

**Professor Imogen Tyler** Email: [i.tyler@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:i.tyler@lancaster.ac.uk)

If you wish to speak to someone outside of the Doctorate Programme, you may also contact:

**Professor Roger Pickup** Email [r.pickup@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:r.pickup@lancaster.ac.uk)

This study has been reviewed and approved by the HRA and is sponsored by Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Lancaster Management School's Research Ethics Committee. It is being funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

*Thank you for considering your participation in this project.*