

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

STUDY TITLE

Private Places, Public Spaces: Exploring how Disabled Women Experience Physical Intrusions and Touching in Everyday Life

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether or not to take part, 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.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?

This research project aims to explore the way that disabled women experience non-consensual physical touching by strangers when out in public spaces. This includes grabbing, pushing, harassment and sexual touching.

This research project will seek to achieve these specific aims:

- To explore how disabled women experience touching in public and how this might be intrusive; unwanted or non-consensual.
- To explore the ways in which this might impact on or limit the freedom of movement that disabled women have and what measures they take to avoid it.
- To begin to draw out the deeper impacts that this has on them as disabled women and their identities.

The study uses a combination of life story interviews and an online website for the sharing of stories and experiences.

WHY HAVE I BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE?

You have shown an interest in taking part in the project because you identify as being a disabled woman who has experienced non-consensual touching when in a public place.

The study is not impairment specific and is open to anyone who identifies as a disabled woman.

DO I HAVE TO TAKE PART?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME IF I TAKE PART?

If you decide to submit a narrative to the Wordpress document then you will be able to write a short account of your experience of non-consensual touching. This will be read by me before publishing, or you can choose to not have your story displayed on the Wordpress site. You will be encouraged to use a pseudonym.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE DISADVANTAGES AND RISKS OF TAKING PART? (WHERE APPROPRIATE)

It is possible that you might become upset when writing about your experiences. Additional support and follow up will be offered when required.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF TAKING PART?

I am very grateful for your participation because it is helping to highlight this under-researched area. It is hoped that the project will lead to more understanding of the nature of non-consensual touching that disabled women experience and how this impacts on their everyday life. It might also help you to talk about your experiences and perhaps be cathartic.

WILL MY INFORMATION IN THIS STUDY BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?¹

Your personal information will be kept strictly confidentially and securely. Participants' real names will be replaced with pseudonyms .

For the Wordpress document, participants can use a pseudonym or their own real name according to their preference.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I WANT TO TAKE PART?

¹ As a researcher, **two** principles are important here. Firstly the '*Common law duty of confidentiality*' by which all participants, unless specifically informed otherwise can expect that the researcher will treat what they have received with confidentiality. Secondly, the requirements of *UK and EU data legislation* that apply to all types of personal data that are received. Failure to act in accordance with the principles and requirements of either may be considered research misconduct.

You should contact me h.mason-bish@sussex.ac.uk

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH STUDY?

Research findings will be used for academic publications in recognised journals and also policy briefings. They will also be used for a wider, larger study taking in a national perspective.

WHO IS ORGANISING AND FUNDING THE RESEARCH?

I am conducting this research as a member of academic faculty (lecturer and co-Director of Centre for Gender Studies) at the University of Sussex. The School of Law, Politics and Sociology is providing some funds to undertake the project.

WHO HAS APPROVED THIS STUDY?

The project has been approved by the Social Sciences and Arts Cross-Schools Research Ethics Committee (C-REC) and the LPS ethical review process. Reference ER/HM287/3

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Hannah Mason-Bish h.mason-bish@sussex.ac.uk for further information. If you have any concerns about the way in which the study has been conducted, you should contact the Chair of the C-REC who reviewed the project.

INSURANCE

The University of Sussex has insurance in place to cover its legal liabilities in respect of this study.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS INFORMATION SHEET

DATE

5/2/19.

