



FAITH AND ABORTION INFORMATION SHEET

Public Participant Version

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You are being invited to take part in a study that we are conducting at Ulster University in the School of Applied Social and Policy Sciences. Before you decide if you wish to take part, it is important that you understand what the study is for and what you will be asked to do. Please read the following information and do not hesitate to ask any questions about anything that might not be clear to you. Thank you for taking the time to consider this invitation.

1. The purpose of this study

The purpose of this research is to explore the views of people of faith in Northern Ireland who recognise abortion is part of a woman's life. Whilst previous studies consider abortion views by denomination none explore from a qualitative perspective what influences these views, what experiences people of faith have when discussing abortion. This study seeks to provide preliminary research to inform larger scale studies in the future.

The study will also inform the work of project partner Alliance for Choice in their under-the-radar/ behind-the-scenes work with faith communities. The findings will inform an evidenced based programme of work in Northern Ireland in engaging with faith communities.

2. Why have I been chosen for this study?

You have been chosen for this study having viewed an advertisement about the study on social media.

3. Do I have to take part in the study?

Taking part in the study is voluntary and if you decide at any time that you would like to withdraw from the study, you do not have to supply us with any reason for doing so. If you decide that you would like to take part in this study, you will be asked to complete an online consent form, a copy of which you can print and keep.

4. What will happen if I take part?

If you decide to take part, we will ask that you complete the online consent form. You will then be sent a link to the online survey. At the end of the survey, you will be invited to take part in an online focus group. You can opt in or out for the online focus group. This will take place online at a later date. The survey will take approximately ten minutes to complete.

The online focus group will take the format of a discussion forum. You will be asked a series of open ended questions over a 3 week period and contribute to a discussion on these with other participants. The time frame will depend on how much time you wish to contribute to the discussions. In previous studies this has been an average of 20 minutes per week. Discussions will be moderated by the research team.

All posts will be verified by the research team before being posted to the forum.

The software tools that we intend to use in the study are very secure and comply with ethical standards.

5. Are there any risks to me if I take part?

No, however if you decide at any time that you would like to withdraw from the study, you do not have to supply us with any reason for doing so. In such instances any information already provided by will not be used by the research team.

6. Are there any benefits for me?

The purpose of this research is to explore the views of people of faith who are prochoice. This study seeks to provide preliminary research to inform larger scale studies in the future.

The study will also inform the work of project partner Alliance for Choice in their under-the-radar work with faith communities. The findings will inform an evidenced based programme of work in Northern Ireland in engaging with faith communities.

Your participation should you wish to take part will significantly contribute to this current study.

7. Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

Anything that you disclose about yourself or your experiences in the online survey and the online focus group will be kept confidential. However, there are some limitations to this. The research team will have to pass on information to third parties if:

- a) you tell us you are planning to harm yourself or others;
- b) you tell us that you are involved in criminal activity which is not known to the police

8. What happens when the study ends?

This evidence base gathered from the online survey and the online focus group (or interviews) will be utilised to inform academic publications, and briefing papers. The study will also inform the work of project partner Alliance for Choice in their under-the-radar work with faith communities. The findings will inform an evidenced based programme of work in Northern Ireland in engaging with faith communities.

Data will be stored securely at Ulster University for 10 years in line with the University policy and all data collected will be treated with the strictest of confidence, according to the principles outlined in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR; 2018)

Data will be placed in the UK Data archive to allow for secondary data analysis by other researchers.

9. What will happen to the results of the study?

The outputs from the project will be held by Ulster University and made freely available.

10. Who has reviewed the study?

The project has been reviewed by the School of Applied Social and Policy Sciences Ethics Filter Committee at Ulster University.

11. What if something goes wrong?

It is highly unlikely that anything will go wrong if you take part in the study. However, if you need to talk to someone about the conduct of this work or to complain, you can contact: Professor AnnMarie Gray – email am.gray@ulster.ac.uk.

12. Contact details

My contact details are:

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