School of Computing
RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

APPLICATION FORM FOR ETHICAL REVIEW OF A RESEARCH PROJECT INVOLVING HUMAN PARTICIPANTS WHICH IS IN THE CATEGORY OF NOTIFICATION ONLY

There are 3 generally accepted levels of ethical review for projects carried out in a University or similar setting. These are notification only, expedited and full committee.

This notification's only level of review is to approve relatively low-risk research involving human participants, primarily using social science methodologies in which any personal information collected is not of a sensitive nature. The School of Computing Research Ethics Committee has been delegated responsibility by the University to approve ethics submissions from undergraduate and taught Masters projects only, which are in the category of notification only.

Examples of projects in this category include:

- Anonymous surveys in which the topic itself is not likely to elicit significant difficulties for the participants, such as: anonymous internet surveys (e.g. Survey Monkey), street questioning. ● Observation (without audio or visual recording) of public settings where privacy would not normally be expected, such as observing people on streets or at sports events. ● Research carrying no risks beyond those of everyday life (as experienced by the intended participant population), such as asking people's opinions about products or services; asking students about educational experiences; monitoring the impact of daily activities. ● Interviews with public figures, professionals or others in their professional capacity regarding their professional activities.
- Analysis of data (e.g. health records) which have had all identifying information removed by the data holder and been provided to the researcher in accordance with data protection legislation.
- Collection of biological samples which are anonymised and do not require invasive techniques (e.g. hair, nails).

If your project is using data from a public repository like Kaggle or is not generating or using any form of personal data then you do not need research ethics approval, you do not need to complete and to submit this form and your project supervisor should indicate this on the project dashboard.

If your project involves collecting or processing personal data which is of a personal nature, you must first complete the DCU online Data Protection training course and review the "Data Protection – Key Points for DCU Researchers" guidance from the Data Protection Unit to assist you in meeting your legal obligations under GDPR and associated Irish law.

Once you have completed this form (if you need to) you should save it as a PDF file, not WORD, and upload it to the your project dashboard before you start gathering data. It will then be read and assessed by two members of the committee and once two members of the committee approve your submission you will be automatically notified by email and your project can start data gathering.

There are strict deadlines for submitting this form for each class group, undergraduate and taught Masters by which your submission must be made and you will be informed of these deadlines by your course board chair or project coordinator. If you do not submit by these deadlines then the research ethics committee is not obliged to approve your submission and when that happens and your project is assessed and graded at the end of the year, you will be awarded 0 for that

component of your project.

SECTION 1 – GENERAL DETAILS

1.1 Project Title

SafeHer

1.2 Applicant Details

Name	Student or Supervisor E-mail
Kheeleswari Devi Ramanjooloo	Student Kheeleswari.ramanjooloo2@mail.dcu.ie
SammyJoe Macri	Student Sammyjoe.macri2@mail.dcu.ie
Cathal Gurrin	Supervisor Cathal.gurrin@dcu.ie

Other Investigators: *Including any external to DCU*

Name	School/Unit/External Institution E-mail

1.3 Key Project Dates

Proposed start date for data collection	Proposed end date for data collection	Proposed project completion date
11Th October	1st February	10th April

1.4 Please indicate which academic award

Undergraduate ☒	Taught Masters ☐

1.5 Please confirm the location(s) where the research will be carried out *If research will be carried out abroad, you will need to address the ethical challenges raised by this in Section 3 of your application - consult the Conducting Research Abroad document in the Ethics Resources and Guidelines section of the DCU Research Ethics webpage).*

Dublin City University

1.6 Please state what additional permissions may be required to access participants. *Specify from whom the permission is required (e.g. a school Board of Management), and when their written approval will be obtained*

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SECTION 2 – PROJECT DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

Research Overview - Please respect the indicated word counts in the following sections and explain all acronyms in full text the first time they appear.

2.1 Provide a brief description of the research (max 250 words):
Please use lay language, include the scientific/theoretical background of study and a justification as to why this research project should proceed in that context

The SafeHer College project aims to enhance the safety and well-being of women, commuters, and fitness enthusiasts, addressing a crucial need in our communities. With rising concerns about harassment and violence, it is vital to develop solutions that empower these groups and foster a secure environment. This research draws on frameworks of community safety, social psychology, and trauma-informed care.
Understanding that feelings of safety are subjective, the project will explore the experiences and perceptions of women, commuters and Fitness enthusiasts. Through surveys and focus groups, we will gather insights on their safety concerns and suggestions for improvement, informing the development of a user-friendly mobile application.
The justification for this research is twofold: improving safety can significantly impact mental health and quality of life, and the SafeHer app aims to provide essential resources tailored to users' needs. Features will include emergency contacts, safety resources, and community support networks, promoting a proactive approach to personal safety. By proceeding with this research, we can empower women, commuters, and Fitness Enthusiasts to navigate their environments confidently, ultimately contributing to a safer and more supportive community for all.

2.2 Please state the aims and objectives of the project (max 200 words)

Aim:
The goal of the SafeHer College project is to make women, commuters, and Fitness Enthusiasts feel safer and more supported in college and community spaces.
Objectives:

1. **Understand Safety Concerns:** We will conduct surveys and focus groups to learn about the safety issues and experiences of women, commuters and Fitness Enthusiasts helping us understand what they need.
2. **Create a Helpful Mobile App:** We will develop an easy-to-use app that provides important resources, emergency contacts, and support options specifically designed for these groups..

By focusing on these objectives, the SafeHer College project aims to empower individuals and create a safer, more supportive environment for everyone.

2.3 Please confirm your methods of data collection:
Tick all relevant check boxes and provide details for each one, including any devices used to collect data, and whether the data will be anonymous, potentially identifiable or identifiable at point of collection

Method	Describe briefly
☒ Interviews or focus groups	Conduct focus groups with women, commuters and fitness enthusiasts to gather qualitative insights; data will be fully anonymised.

☒ Surveys/questionnaires	Use online surveys to collect quantitative data on safety perceptions; responses will be anonymous.
☐ Audio/video recordings	
☐ Public observations	
☐ Persons in public office	
☒ Using existing data (incl. secondary data)	Analyse existing studies and reports on campus safety; this data will be identifiable but sourced from published materials.
☐ Using human derived material (biological samples)	
☐ Standard tests (educational/personality etc.)	
☐ Standard educational practices	
☐ Other (please specify)	

2.4 Please confirm who the participants on this study will be, including group size and composition:

Include associated demographic characteristics, and state how your proposed sample size was determined (e.g. power analysis)

Participant Groups:
The study will include two groups:

- **Women:** Female students aged 18- 35.
- **Commuters:** Students who commute to campus, aged 18-35.
- Fitness Enthusiasts: People going on early morning runs or late night exercise, aged 16-40.

Group Size and Composition:

- Focus groups will consist of **3 - 4 participants** each.
- Surveys will target a minimum of **100 participants** across all groups for a representative dataset.
- All collected data will remain anonymous to protect participants' privacy.

Sample Size Determination:

- The proposed sample size was determined based on standard power analysis methods to ensure sufficient statistical power for analyzing the results and drawing meaningful conclusions.

2.5 Please outline your recruitment process, including where you are sourcing participants from and your criteria for inclusion/exclusion:
Where gatekeepers are involved, outline the procedures relating to their involvement

Sourcing Participants:
Participants will be recruited from:

- **College Campuses:** Announcements in newsletters, bulletin boards, and social media. ● **Community Organizations:** Collaboration with local groups supporting women, commuters and fitness enthusiasts.
- **Online Platforms:** Surveys distributed via university email lists and relevant social media groups. **Inclusion Criteria:**

- Aged 18-30.
- Identified as women or commuters or Fitness Enthusiasts.
- Currently enrolled in a college or university.

Exclusion Criteria:

- Outside the age range (under 18 or over 30).
- Not currently enrolled in a college or university.
- Unable or unwilling to provide informed consent.

Involvement of Gatekeepers:
We will seek permission from college administrators to promote the study. This includes presenting the project outline for approval and collaborating on recruitment strategies while ensuring participant confidentiality.

2.6 Addressing participant vulnerability – if your participants fall into any of the following categories, please check the relevant tick box/boxes and state below what special arrangements will be made to protect them:

If your participants are not in any of these categories, tick N/A

☒ N/A
☐ Children under 18 years of age
☐ Persons in unequal relationships with the researcher *(e.g. lecturer-student, therapist-client, employer-employee)*
☐ People with a recognised or diagnosed intellectual, physical or mental impairment
☐ People confined to institutions *(e.g. prisoners, residents in 24 hr nursing facilities)*
☐ People who have undergone traumatic or adverse emotional events
☐ People with diminished cognitive ability
☐ Marginalised sections of society
☐ Other (please specify)

Special arrangements:

2.7 Involvement of children under 18 years of age – if your participants are in this category, please confirm compliance with the following:

If your participants are not in this category, tick N/A

☒ N/A
☐ We confirm that we have read and agree to act in accordance with the DCU Child Protection policy and procedures (*as per the DCU Child Protection Unit webpage*)
☐ We confirm that we have put in place safeguards for the children participating in the research

☐ We confirm that we have supports in place for children who may disclose current or historical abuse (whether or not this is the focus of the research)
☐ We confirm that all requirements will be met prior to commencing the research *(e.g. TUSLA Children First Training completed, Garda Vetting in place)*

2.8 Please confirm how the results of the research will be disseminated: *Include a statement on whether the participants will be provided with any information as to the findings or outcomes of the project*

Participant Communication:
Participants will receive a summary report highlighting key findings and recommendations. They will also have the option to receive updates on the project's impact, ensuring transparency and acknowledgment of their contributions.

SECTION 3 – ETHICAL ISSUES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

3.1 Please identify all issues including ethical issues which may arise in the course of this research. What are the potential risks to participants, and how will those risks be addressed or minimised?

Potential risks can be physical, psychological, social, legal, etc. Please include details of any additional support being provided for participants during/after the study

Ethical Issues:

- **Informed Consent:** Ensuring that participants fully understand the study's purpose, procedures, and potential risks before agreeing to participate.
- **Confidentiality:** Protecting participants' identities and personal information throughout the research process.

Potential Risks:

- **Social Risks:** Participants will be healthy adults and that this is unlikely to lead to any risks.

Risk Mitigation Strategies:

- **Anonymity:** Ensure that all data is anonymized, and use unique identifiers to protect participant identities in reports and publications.
- **Safe Environment:** Conduct focus groups in a secure and comfortable setting, allowing participants to express themselves without fear of repercussions.
- **Inform** them of available supports before, during, and after the study.

3.2 Please identify the potential benefits (direct and/or indirect) to those participating in this research:

Potential benefits should outweigh the potential risks to participants

Direct Benefits to Participants:

- **Increased Awareness:** Participants will gain knowledge about safety resources and support systems available to them through the SafeHer app.
- **Empowerment:** By sharing their experiences and concerns, participants can contribute to meaningful changes that improve safety for women, commuters and fitness enthusiasts

Indirect Benefits:

- **Access to Resources:** Participants will be connected to important support networks and services, such as counseling and safety organizations, which they may not have been aware of previously.

The findings of this research will lead to the development of a SafeHer app and could influence broader community safety initiatives

3.3 Please describe what measures/protocols you have put in place in the event that there are any unexpected outcomes or adverse effects to participants arising from involvement in the research:

1. **Voluntary Withdrawal:**
   Participants can withdraw at any time without penalty if they feel uncomfortable.

2. **Debriefing Sessions:**
   A debriefing will be offered post-participation and after the interview, if they do not want the interview information to be used - voluntary withdrawal is available.

3.4 Do you intend to provide payment or incentives to participants?

Yes☐ No ☒

If Yes, please consult the REC Guidelines on the Use of Compensation and Incentives (in the Ethics Resources and Guidelines section of the DCU Research Ethics webpage) before providing additional details below

3.5 Does this research raise any potential risks for the researchers themselves? *Please consider the location/environment where the research is being conducted, exposure to distressing data content etc.*

Yes☐ No ☒

If Yes, please describe further and explain what risk management procedures will be put in place to minimise these risks to researchers:

3.6 Does this research raise any potential conflict of interest?
Please consider any potential real or perceived conflicts of interest that might influence the integrity of the research, or give rise to bias in conducting and reporting the research, or affecting publication (consult the DCU Conflict of Interest Policy for assistance)

Yes☐ No ☒

If Yes, please identify and explain the steps being taken to address that conflict:

3.7 Please describe how the conduct of the research will be monitored: *Regular oversight by the PI is required to ensure the project conforms to the procedures set out in this application (especially where several people are involved in carrying out the research procedures)*

- **Oversee All Data Collection:** Regularly check that all interviews, surveys, and focus groups are carried out according to ethical guidelines.

- **Team Meetings:** Hold regular team meetings to review progress, address any issues, and ensure compliance with research protocols.
- **Data Security:** Ensure all data is anonymized and securely stored, following ethical data protection practices. **All data will be securely deleted at the end of the project.**

SECTION 4 – CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA MANAGEMENT

4.1 Considering your previous response in section 2.3 of the form on data collection, please confirm whether you are collecting or processing personal data in this research project:
Personal data is any information about a living person, where that person is either identified, or could be identified from the data itself, or when it is combined with other data. This includes paper based, electronic and biological samples data. If your data is fully and completely anonymous, it is not personal data.

Yes ☒ No ☐

If Yes, please confirm your compliance with the following by ticking the checkboxes:

☒ We confirm that we have completed the DCU Data Protection training module on Loop.
☒ We confirm that we have read the "Data Protection – Key Points for DCU Researchers" guidance on the DCU Data Protection Unit (DPU) website and agree to protect and manage our data in accordance with same.
☒ We have assessed the degree of risk inherent in the personal data being used in the research project, and confirm that all DPU GDPR requirements have been met prior to submitting this application *(e.g. completion of Data Protection questionnaire, confirmation that any survey tool being used is GDPR compliant, that required Data Processing or Sharing Agreements will be in place, etc.)*

4.2 Data access – please confirm whether access to participant data is confined to the investigators named on this application:

Yes ☒ No ☐

If No, please name who the other individuals are and why they need access. Any proposed transfer of data (including outside of the EU) should be detailed here.

4.3 Data storage – please confirm compliance with the following:

☒ Data collected on mobile devices will be protected with a strong password/passphrase at a minimum, and/or encrypted if the device supports it
☒ Data will be removed from mobile devices as soon as is practicable and stored in a secured location in DCU (on server or institutional Google Drive)
☒ Paper based data will be held securely in locked cabinets in DCU, with access restricted to the named researchers
Specific arrangements in relation to biological samples should be stated here:

Any exemptions to the above compliance statements should be justified here:

4.4 Please confirm who will be responsible for the secure storage of data generated by the research:

Name the relevant DCU investigator/s

Sammyjoe Macri Kheeleswari Devi Ramanjooloo

4.5 Please confirm how long the data will be held for:

For personal data, consult section 15: Retention of Personal Data in the "Data Protection – Key Points for DCU Researchers" guidance on the DCU Data Protection Unit (DPU) website

Data will be held till the 1st of January 2025

4.6 Please confirm what will happen to the data collected at the end of the study: *Please tick the relevant checkbox and complete the associated follow-up section for that category*

Archived ☐	Destroyed ☒ Other ☐

4.6.1 Archived data

Please provide the following details:

Name the DCU staff member responsible for archival and future use of data	
Confirm whether the data will be made available to other researchers, and if so, how?	
Confirm how the data will be prepared for archive (e.g. will datasets be anonymised)	
Confirm where the data will be archived and who will be allowed to access it	

4.6.2 Destroyed data

Please provide the following details – Note: for student projects, the supervisor must take responsibility for data destruction if there is no guarantee the student will have access to the data at the time of destruction.

Please justify why the data will be destroyed	Data will be destroyed to protect user privacy and comply with GDPR regulations, ensuring personal information is not retained longer than necessary. This practice minimizes the risk of data breaches and maintains user trust, reflecting responsible data management and ethical research practices.
Name the DCU researcher responsible for destruction of data	*Sammyjoe Macri Kheeleswari Devi Ramanjooloo*

Confirm when the data will be destroyed (specify date)	*30/04/2025*
Confirm compliance with the following destruction methods (tick relevant boxes)	☒ Electronic data will be overwritten/securely deleted ☐ Paper based data will be confidentially shredded ☐ Medical samples will be disposed in accordance with the relevant DCU approved SOP

4.6.2 Other - Please explain what will happen to the data if not being archived or destroyed:

SECTION 5 – PARTICIPANT INFORMATION AND INFORMED CONSENT PROCEDURES

In addition to completing this form you are required to attach, within the single PDF that you submit, a copy of (1) the Participation Information Sheet which you share with your participants and (2) a copy of the Informed Consent Form which your participants sign.

5.1 Please confirm that the following items have been addressed in your Participant Information Sheet which should be shared with all participants whether it involves online or in-person data gathering:

The items below should be used as headings in your information sheet. Note the language used under each item must reflect the participant age group and corresponding comprehension level– if your participants have different comprehension levels (e.g. both adult and child participants) then separate sheets must be prepared for each set. Templates are available via the REC Forms - Applications, Templates and Amendments section of the Research Ethics website.

Checklist – tick the relevant check box for each item	Yes	No

Introductory Statement (Researcher names and titles, school, title of the research study)	☒	☐
What is this research about?	☒	☐
Why is this research being conducted?	☒	☐
Why have you been invited to take part?	☒	☐
What will happen if you decide to take part in this research study?	☒	☐
How will your data be used?	☒	☐
How will your privacy be protected (including any legal limits to confidentiality)?	☒	☐
What are the benefits of taking part in this research study?	☒	☐
What are the risks of taking part in this research study?	☒	☐
Can you change your mind at any stage and withdraw from this study?	☒	☐
How will you find out what happens with this project?	☒	☐
Contact details for further information	☒	☐

If you marked any item as No, please explain and justify why:

5.2 Informed Consent Procedures – please confirm whether written consent is to be obtained:
Please tick the relevant checkbox

Yes☒ No ☐

If Yes, describe the procedures by which written consent will be obtained. If you are involving child participants, you will also need to obtain their written assent. Templates are available via the REC Forms - Applications, Templates and Amendments section of the Research Ethics website.

Consent for the participation in this research will be obtained through the participation consent from all the participants. However, if it is on the survey/Questionnaire online, then they will have to read the consent form and agree to it. Therefore, written consent is obtained. They will be informed about the purpose of the research, their rights, and the voluntary nature of their involvement. They will have an opportunity to ask questions and will be assured that their responses will remain anonymous as no name will be recorded.

If no, describe the procedures regarding how consent/assent will be obtained:

If you are gathering data from an online process such as Google Form or SurveyMonkey then you should use a page such as the one below, to capture participants' informed consent and your data gathering should not proceed until participants have completed this form with the appropriate answers.

Participant – please complete the following (by clicking Yes/No for each question)

I have read the Plain Language Statement (or had it read to me) *
- Yes
- No

I understand I may withdraw from the Research Study at any point *
- Yes
- No

I understand the information provided *
- Yes
- No

I have read and understand the arrangements to be made to protect confidentiality of data, including that confidentiality of information provided is subject to legal limitations *
- Yes
- No

I have had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss this study *
- Yes
- No

I have read and understand confirmations relating to any other relevant information as indicated in the PLS *
- Yes
- No

I understand the information provided in relation to data protection *
- Yes
- No

I consent to participate in this research study *
- Yes
- No

I have received satisfactory answers to all my questions *
- Yes
- No

SECTION 6 – SUBMISSION CHECKLIST AND RESEARCHER DECLARATION

6.1 Please confirm all required supplementary documentation to be included in this application within Section 7:

Checklist – tick the relevant check box for each item	Yes	N/A
Participant Information Sheet/s	☒	☐
Informed Consent Form/s	☒	☐
Informed Assent Form/s	☐	☒
Recruitment Advertisement	☐	☒
Questionnaire/Survey	☒	☐
Interview/Focus Group Questions	☒	☐
Debriefing Material	☐	☒
Bibliography	☐	☒

Approval from another Research Ethics Committee	☐	☒
Evidence of other external approvals (e.g. Board of Management letter)	☐	☒
Evidence of internal approvals (e.g. BSC approval review letter)	☐	☒
Other – provide details here:	☐	☒

6.2 Signed Declaration

By submitting this form, the applicant (and supervisor) agree to the following:

The information contained herein is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, accurate. I have read the University's current research ethics guidelines, and accept responsibility for the conduct of the procedures set out in the attached application in accordance with the form guidelines, the REC guidance and resources, the University's Conflict of Interest Policy, its Code of Good Research Practice and any other condition laid down by the Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee. I have attempted to identify all risks related to the research that may arise in conducting this research and acknowledge my obligations and the rights of the participants.

I also acknowledge my requirement to be informed as to other duties and legal obligations applying to my research, and to comply with these duties and obligations – this includes being informed about DCU Data Protection guidelines for researchers, DCU Child Protection policy and procedures (where relevant) and DCU Insurance requirements.

I and my co-investigators and/or supporting staff have the appropriate qualifications, experience and facilities to conduct the research set out in the attached application and to deal with any emergencies and contingencies related to the research that may arise. Research will not commence until required consents and approvals are in place.

Electronic Signature(s):

Supervisor: ___CATHAL GURRIN___

Print Name here:___Cathal Gurrin____

Date: _15 Oct 2025

Student(s) signature(s): K.Ramanjooloo, S.macri

Print Name(s) here: Kheeleswari Devi Ramanjooloo, SammyJoe Macri

Date: 09/12/2025

SECTION 7 – SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTATION

Please attach all required documentation as confirmed by you in the previous section. The application should then be saved as one file in PDF format before submission via the project dashboard.

1. Participant Information sheet

DCU
Ollscoil Chathair
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City University

DCU Research Ethics Committee
Participant Information Sheet

A Participant Information Sheet should use language that reflects the participant age group and corresponding comprehension level. It should cover the following items, retained as headings in the sheet (they are for the participant to read and are therefore phrased accordingly). The information in italics is to prompt the research team to provide the appropriate detail under each heading. Please include additional sections if necessary for your research

Introductory Statement
We are Kheeleswari Devi Ramanjooloo and SammyJoe Macri students of Combus4, part of the SafeHer research team from the School of Computing, DCU. SafeHer is a mobile application designed to enhance the personal safety of women by providing security focused features, discreet activation mechanisms, and accessible resources. This study is titled: "Exploring the Impact of the SafeHer App on Safety and Empowerment."

What is this research about?
This research is about understanding how the SafeHer app impacts the sense of safety, well-being, and empowerment among its users. We are interested in gathering insights on how the app influences your daily life and helps in situations where personal safety is a concern.

Why is this research being conducted?
The SafeHer app is designed to offer immediate safety features and preventive strategies. We are conducting this research to ensure the app meets its goals of empowering women, commuters and survivors of violence helping to improve their safety, and providing support to those in need. We want to better understand how users interact with the app and how it can be enhanced to further support women.

Why have you been invited to take part?
You have been invited to take part in this research because you are part of our SafeHer community and your feedback is valuable in shaping the future of the app. Your experiences as a user will help us better tailor our features and ensure the app meets its safety goals.

Please note: Your decision to participate or not will not affect your ongoing use of the SafeHer app, and it will have no impact on your access to any app features.

What will happen if you decide to take part in this research study?
If you decide to participate, you will be asked to complete a questionnaire, participate in interviews, or provide feedback on the app's usability. These activities should take approximately 5 mins or less but only with your explicit consent.

DCU
Ollscoil Chathair
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City University

DCU Research Ethics Committee
Participant Information Sheet

How will your data be used?
Your data will be used to help us understand how the SafeHer app is being used and how it can be improved. The data will be anonymised to protect your identity.

If personal data is being collected and processed, further to you having met all DPU requirements, please ensure you include the following information in this section (consult the Data Protection Unit website guidance as necessary). **How will your privacy be protected (including any legal limits to confidentiality)?**

The data Controllers are:

- *SammyJoe Macri (sammyjoe.macri2@mail.dcu.ie)*
- *Kheeleswari Devi Ramanjooloo (kheeleswari.ramanjooloo2@mail.dcu.ie)*

Your privacy is very important to us. All data is already anonymised as no names or personally identifiable information are being gathered.

The types of personal data to be processed include:

- Survey responses or interview data, which will be anonymised.
- Demographic information, specifically gender and age, which will be anonymised.
- Names will not be collected.

Details of data sharing and retention:

- Data transfer: We have no intention to transfer data to countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA).
- Data retention period: Data will be retained till 10th April, which is the proposed project completion date, after which it will be securely deleted.

Please note that confidentiality can only be protected within the limits of the law. This means your data could potentially be subject to legal claims, such as subpoenas or freedom of information requests.

You have the right to lodge a complaint concerning the use of your personal data with the Irish Data Protection Commission. Contact details:

- **Email:** info@dataprotection.ie
- **Phone:** +353 57 868 4800 or +353 76 110 4800
- **Website:** www.dataprotection.ie

If you have any concerns regarding data protection, you can contact DCU's Data Protection Officer:

- **Mr. Martin Ward** (data.protection@dcu.ie)
- **Phone**: 7005118 / 7008257

What are the benefits of taking part in this research study?
By participating, you will contribute to improving the SafeHer app, making it more effective for all women. While you may not experience immediate benefits, your feedback will help improve personal safety tools for future users.

What are the risks of taking part in this study?
There are minimal risks to participating in this study. However, should you feel uncomfortable discussing personal safety or experiences related to the app, you can withdraw at any time during the interview or survey.

Can you change your mind at any stage and withdraw from this study?
No, you can't change your mind and withdraw from the study at any stage. However, if you choose to withdraw, you must do so while completing the survey or during the interview process. Since the data collection is anonymous, we will not be able to identify individual contributions.

How will you find out what happens with this project?
We will provide a summary of the findings from this research once the project is complete. If you are interested in receiving updates, you can request this information by contacting Kheeleswari Devi Ramanjooloo or SammyJoe Macri.

Contact details for further information:

- Researcher 1: Kheeleswari Devi Ramanjooloo, kheeleswari.ramanjooloo2@mail.dcu.ie
- Researcher 2: SammyJoe Macri, sammyjoe.macri2@mail.dcu.ie

If participants have concerns about this study and wish to contact an independent person, please contact: The Secretary, Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee, c/o Research and Innovation Support, Dublin City University, Dublin 9. Tel 01-7008000, e-mail rec@dcu.ie.

2. Interview/Focus Group Questions

Interview Questions

1. *When you think about safety apps, what types of features come to mind that would make you feel more secure?*
2. *How do you feel about using technology to enhance personal safety?*
3. *What role do you think privacy and data security should play in safety applications?*
4. *Would it make you feel safer if an app could share your location in certain situations?*
5. *What kind of communication would you expect from an app in an emergency situation?*
6. *In your opinion, should safety apps provide direct access to emergency services?*
7. *How important do you think it is for apps to involve the community in identifying risks or hazards?*
8. *Do you think it could be helpful if an app could capture important information during an emergency?*
9. *How do you feel about safety apps working even in areas with limited or no internet access?*
10. *Would you find it useful if safety apps allowed people to report and share pictures of hazards?*
11. *Do you think safety apps should include automatic features for certain situations, like traveling at night?*
12. *How important is it for safety apps to be user-friendly, especially for people who may not be very tech-savvy?*
13. *Would voice activation in a safety app make it easier for you to use in an emergency?*
14. *How do you feel about apps having features that help you disguise the app or its functions if needed?*
15. *What do you think about offering a basic version of a safety app with essential features available to everyone?*

16. *Do you think emergency features like flashlights could be helpful in certain situations?*

17. *If you were using a safety app, would you find it helpful to have different check-in options based on your situation?*

18. *Would you find it useful if an app could show nearby safe locations in times of danger?*

19. *How important is it for a safety app to work offline, especially for those who are traveling or in remote areas?*

20. *Would discreet alerts, like vibrations, be useful for you to confirm safety without having to interact with your phone?*

21. *Do you think it would be valuable to assess and rate hazards based on user feedback?*

22. *How would you feel about activating emergency features without drawing attention, such as using voice commands or gestures?*

23. *Would you find an audio alarm feature useful in alerting others around you during an emergency?*

24. *Do you think users should be able to update or confirm the safety of areas based on their own experiences?*

3. Consent Form

DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY
Informed Consent Form

SafeHer
School: Dublin City University, School of Computing
Supervisor: Cathal Gurrin
Investigators: Kheeleswari Devi Ramanjooloo, SammyJoe Macri

Clarification of the purpose of the research
This study is part of the SafeHer project at Dublin City University, aimed at understanding and improving safety experiences, particularly for women and vulnerable groups in public spaces. The research seeks to identify key safety concerns, assess current interventions, and develop recommendations for safer environments.

As part of this study, we will collect and process survey responses, demographic information, and personal safety experiences to analyse patterns and improve safety policies. The data controller is Dublin City University, and all data will be handled securely in compliance with GDPR regulations.

By participating, you consent to the collection and processing of your data, which will be anonymised where possible and used solely for research.

Confirmation of particular requirements as highlighted in the Plain Language Statement

Participant – please complete the following (Circle Yes or No for each question)	
I have read the Plain Language Statement (or had it read to me)	Yes/No
I understand the information provided	Yes/No
I have had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss this study	Yes/No
I have received satisfactory answers to all my questions	Yes/No
I am aware that my interview will be audiotaped	Yes/No

Confirmation that involvement in the Research Study is voluntary
I understand that my participation in the SafeHer research study is entirely voluntary. I may withdraw from the study at any time without providing a reason and without any negative consequences. If I choose to withdraw, any data I have provided up to that point will be anonymised.

All data collected in this study will be handled in strict confidentiality. Personal data will be anonymised where possible and stored securely in accordance with GDPR and DCU data protection policies. Access to participant data is restricted to the named investigators and will be securely stored on DCU servers or institutional Google Drive. Confidentiality will be maintained unless there are legal limitations, such as mandatory reporting obligations for serious safety concerns.

The collected data will be stored securely until April 30, 2025, after which it will be permanently deleted to protect participant privacy and ensure compliance with ethical research practices. Electronic data will be securely deleted. SammyJoe Macri and Kheeleswari Devi Ramanjooloo are responsible for the secure destruction of data.

I understand that the data I provide will only be used for the SafeHer research study and will not be used for any future studies beyond this project.

Signature:

I have read and understood the information in this form. My questions and concerns have been answered by the researchers, and I have a copy of this consent form. Therefore, I consent to take part in this research project

Participants Signature: _____

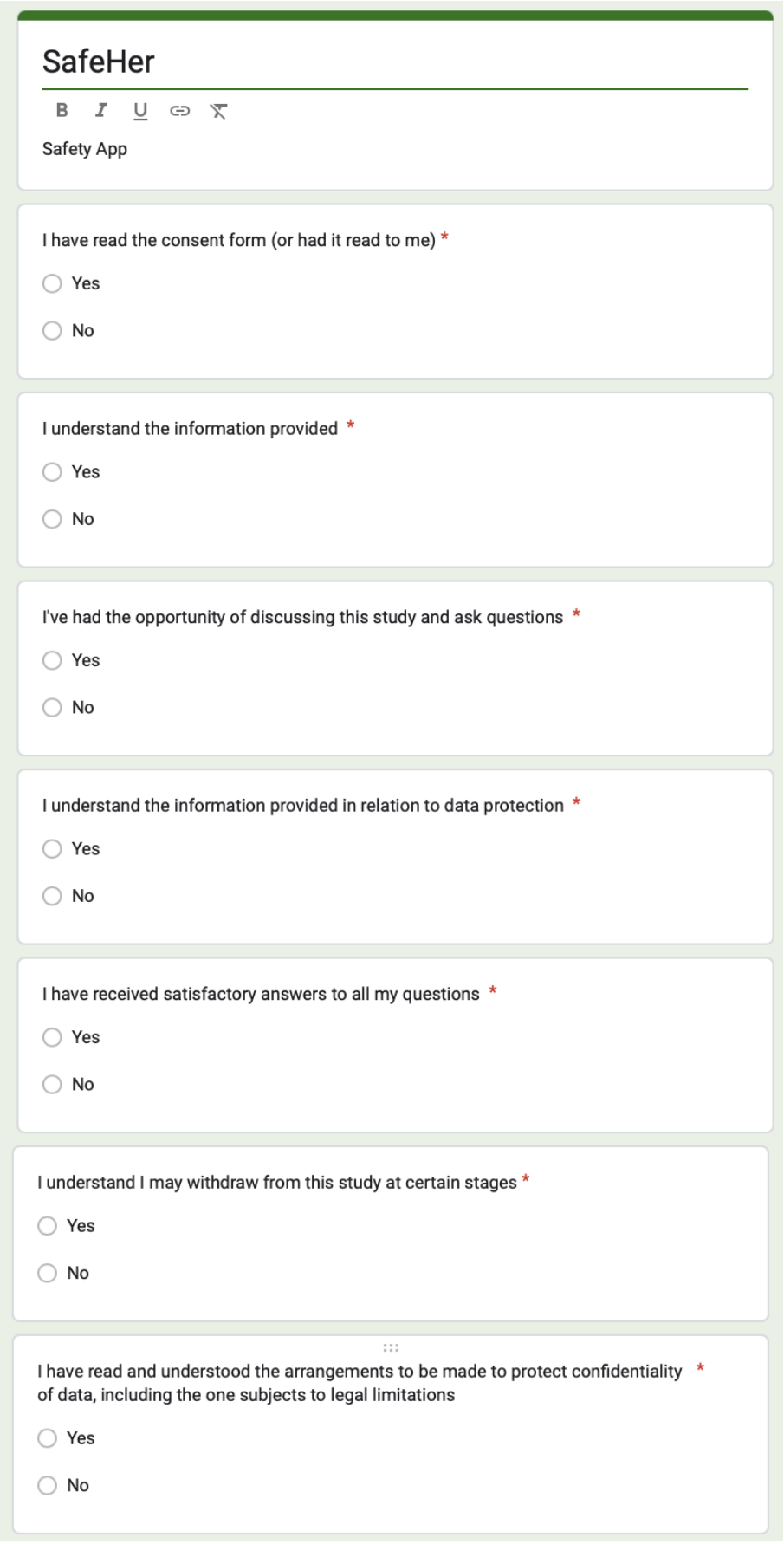
Name in Block Capitals: _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____

4. Survey/Questionnaire

The information provided in the completed consent form will be securely stored in our drive.



SafeHer

Safety App

I have read the consent form (or had it read to me) *

- Yes
- No

I understand the information provided *

- Yes
- No

I've had the opportunity of discussing this study and ask questions *

- Yes
- No

I understand the information provided in relation to data protection *

- Yes
- No

I have received satisfactory answers to all my questions *

- Yes
- No

I understand I may withdraw from this study at certain stages *

- Yes
- No

I have read and understood the arrangements to be made to protect confidentiality of data, including the one subjects to legal limitations *

- Yes
- No

I consent to participate in this research study *

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

How often do you feel concerned about your personal safety in public spaces?

- ◯ Always
- ◯ Often
- ◯ Sometimes
- ◯ Rarely
- ◯ Never

Which situations make you feel most unsafe?

- ◯ Walking alone at night
- ◯ Using public transportation
- ◯ Traveling in unfamiliar areas
- ◯ Walking through secluded areas
- ◯ Meeting new people

Would you use an app designed to enhance personal safety, like SafeHer, in situations where you feel unsafe?

- ◯ Yes, definitely
- ◯ Yes, in certain situations
- ◯ Maybe
- ◯ No

If SafeHer provided a fake incoming call feature to help you get out of uncomfortable situations, would you use it?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ Maybe
- ◯ No

If SafeHer offered a free version with basic safety features, but charged for premium features, would you consider subscribing to the premium version?

- ○ Yes, definitely
- ○ Yes, if the price is affordable
- ○ Maybe
- ○ No, I would prefer a free app only

How much would you be willing to pay for premium safety features on a monthly basis?

- ○ $0 (I prefer free)
- ○ $5-10
- ○ $10-20
- ○ $20-30
- ○ More than $30

Would you recommend a safety app like SafeHer to friends or family?

- ○ Yes
- ○ Depending on the features
- ○ Maybe
- ○ No

How old are you?

- ○ 20-25
- ○ 25-30
- ○ 30+

What is your gender?

- ○ Male
- ○ Female
- ○ Non-binary
- ○ Prefer not to say