

**Lived experiences around domestic abuse from survivors and front-line service providers – a ‘sense-checking’ exercise!**

**INFORMATION SHEET**

Thank you for taking part in our sense-checking exercise! This information sheet provides a bit more detail of what we will do on the day.

I have carried out research on how women and children are affected by living with domestic abuse. My research used survey data, and so all of my findings are in the form of numbers and percentages in the population. I am writing a report on these results, and I felt it was important to conduct a ‘sense-checking’ exercise to see what those with lived experience of either domestic abuse or of providing support and services for domestic abuse victims and/or survivors make of these findings.

My main question is: **Do the findings I have obtained reflect your own experiences or not, and in what ways?**

I am planning to briefly present my findings to you in an accessible way, and to then have a discussion around the different issues raised. All insights and reflections on the back of our work are welcome! For example, it could be that your experiences confirm our findings, our they could contradict what we’ve found. Your insights might also point to issues we’ve not considered. You do not have to share experiences from your own life – you are welcome to reflect on collective experiences that you feel are relevant.

**Format:** The sense-checking exercise will last two hours, and will include a presentation from myself, a break and a sandwich lunch. The part of the event where you can share your reflections with us will last approximately 1 hour.

**Recording and transcription:** I intend to record the audio of our conversation so I do not need to take notes while listening. The audio file will be sent to an experienced UK based transcriber, who will transcribe the recording, send it to me, and then delete the audio files and transcripts from their computer. The transcript will be stored at the University of Edinburgh indefinitely and may be used to inform or contextualize future research.

**What happens with my information?** The confidentiality of all identifying information you provide will be safeguarded. Theultimate goal, with your consent, would be to include extracts of your stories in the final report on this work. The stories could be included as collective summaries or small vignettes based on individual stories, and all information which could identify you would be modified or removed. An example of what a vignette looks like is provided at the end of this document.

**Opting out & self-care:** It is possible that discussing or listening to experiences of domestic abuse could be upsetting for you. You do not have to share something if you do not want to, and you can decide this on the day. Participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw from this project at any time without explanation or prejudice and to withdraw any unprocessed data that you have provided.

**Why am I doing this?** I believe that complementing the stories told by the numbers with brief accounts of lived experiences would help raise the chances that the report has to generate impact in policy and practice and to lead to meaningful positive change.

**When:** June 27th 12:00-14:00, George Street Social, 45-51 George Street, Newcastle

**Voucher:** You will get a Post Office shopping voucher (£25) as a thank you for your time.

**Questions?**  [Valeria.Skafida@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Valeria.Skafida@ed.ac.uk)

**Example of a vignette (using hypothetical information).** Please note that real names would not be used, and I may choose to alter details such as ages, genders of children, or any other detail so as to further protect the anonymity of participants.

*Lauren, a 28 year old mother of two, came to specialist homelessness services after experiencing domestic abuse. She had been living with her partner and endured physical and emotional abuse for two years before leaving the relationship. She wanted to leave the relationship but was discouraged by the lack of appropriate housing for her and her children. Because Lauren’s partner controlled all the household finances, it was very difficult for Lauren to find the resources to leave her abusive partner.*

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| **Nr** | **Statement** | **Tick if you agree** |
| 1 | I consent to participate in this sense-checking exercise the details of which have been explained to me and I have read the participant information sheet. |  |
| 2 | I understand the purpose of the sense checking exercise is to understand what those with lived experiences of supporting individuals experiencing domestic abuse make of our research findings. |  |
| 3 | I acknowledge that the possible effects of participating in this sense-checking exercise have been explained to my satisfaction. |  |
| 4 | I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw from this project anytime without explanation or prejudice and to withdraw any unprocessed data that I have provided. |  |
| 5 | I understand that the data from this exercise will be stored at the University of Edinburgh indefinitely, and that my data may be used for future projects about domestic violence. |  |
| 6 | I understand that the insights shared in the discussion will be summarised as anonymised vignettes or other text in a publicly available report published by the University of Edinburgh. |  |
| 7 | I understand that some of the context or details of the insights provided might be modified to ensure insights remain anonymous. |  |
| 8 | I have been informed that the confidentiality of the information I provide will be safeguarded. |  |
| 9 | I am aware that the recording from the joint discussion will be transcribed by a collaborator, who will delete it after transcribing it. |  |
| 10 | I understand that after I sign this consent form, it will be retained by the researchers. |  |

Your name:

Your signature:

Date: