



## **'Safer Parks by Design: Utilising Open Data to Enhance Safety for Women and Girls': Information about the project.**

### **What is the project about?**

We are designing an interactive website dashboard containing open spatial data on indicators of park safety, accessibility, and inclusion. It will be openly available to a range of stakeholders who play a role in designing, managing, and maintaining parks as well as supporting crime prevention in the built environment.

The 'Safer Parks Dashboard' will provide actionable data-driven insights that support the implementation of the '['Safer Parks: Improving access for women and girls' guidance](#)' and support wider decision making in parks.

The aims of the dashboard are:

1. To increase use of parks by women & girls by making parks more welcoming and increasing sense of belonging
2. To increase feelings of safety within parks for women and girls
3. To support prevention of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in parks

To ensure the dashboard meets the needs of the intended users within their job and voluntary roles we are conducting user testing surveys and focus groups.

Before you decide if you would like to take part, it is important that you understand the aims of this project, and what taking part involves for you.

Please read this leaflet carefully, and feel free to ask us questions.

### **Who is doing the research?**

Dr Anna Barker, Dr Fran Pontin, Dr Maeve Murphy Quinlan, Dr Vikki Houlden, and Dr Melissa Barrientos from the University of Leeds are leading this project.

We think that parks should be places where women and girls feel safe, and that women and girls should be able to visit and enjoy them without feeling uncomfortable or unsafe. The '['Safer Parks: Improving access for women and girls' guidance](#)' builds on research by the University of Leeds in 2022 and sets out to address the inequity of access to parks using ten principles under three principles:

<i>Project title</i>	<i>Document type</i>	<i>Version #</i>	<i>Date</i>
Safer Parks by Design: Utilising Open Data to Enhance Safety for Women and Girls	Survey participant information sheet	1.0.0	03/12/25
Safer Parks by Design: Utilising Open Data to Enhance Safety for Women and Girls	Survey participant information sheet	2.0.0	07/01/26
Safer Parks by Design: Utilising Open Data to Enhance Safety for Women and Girls	Survey participant information sheet	3.0.0	21/01/26



	Eyes on the Park	Awareness	Inclusion
We	The presence of other people can make the park feel safer; either through activation which brings in other users or making the most of park staff and other officials.	The design of parks can make women and girls feel more secure in a space, helping them to see and be seen, ensuring they don't feel trapped and giving them the ability to navigate their surroundings.	How to create parks where all women and girls feel they belong by identifying and addressing the barriers which exist for different groups.

believe there is currently a wealth of open data that can support key stakeholders in implementing the Safer Parks guidance across the 3 themes/10 principles. We are designing a dashboard to present these open data insights to support implementation of the guidance.

We are working with [West Yorkshire Combined Authority](#), West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership, five local authorities in West Yorkshire (Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, and Wakefield), Keep Britain Tidy who manage the Green Flag Award and Police Crime Prevention Initiatives on this project.

We are funded by the UK research and innovation service (UKRI) to support the [UK Government's Safer Streets mission](#).

### Why do you want me to take part?

You have been chosen as a key stakeholder to participate in our survey. This is because your job or volunteer role involves the care, management, and development and or policing of parks. This might include activities such as improving and maintaining the park, helping to organise community events, park management, applying for or prioritising funding, crime prevention and or VAWG investigation.

By sharing your experience and views, you will help us understand how we can better design the dashboard to support you in making decisions that create safer, more welcoming parks for women and girls.

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**Do I have to take part?**

This is up to you. If you would like to take part, we will ask you to give consent to complete the online survey.

If you change mind, you can stop taking part in this project at any time before submission of the survey. You don't have to tell us why if you don't want to.

Survey results will be submitted anonymously, so when we write about or present the research, we will never use your name. This means that what you say to us cannot be linked to you.

**Withdrawing from the study**

As the surveys are anonymous it is not possible to withdrawn once your responses have been submitted.

Please view the [Research Participant Privacy Notice](#).

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