

Take Part in the Recovery Histories Research Project Information Sheet for Survivors of CSA

We would like to invite survivors of childhood sexual abuse to join our research project. We welcome participation from anyone who has lived through child sexual abuse. We particularly welcome underrepresented survivors, for example on the basis of ethnic or cultural identity, class, immigration status, language proficiency, gender identity, sexuality, disability, neurodiversity, or homelessness. If you are unsure whether you fit into these definitions, please contact us and we will discuss it. You are not required to be supported by an organisation to take part in the research.

This information sheet is for you to make sure that you understand the purpose of our research and what your involvement would look like. Please take time to read the following information carefully. One of our team can guide you through this information sheet, to help you decide whether you would like to take part and answer any questions or concerns you may have. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear. Our contact details are at the end of the information.

What is this research and why is this important?

Our project is the first social, cultural and medical history into recovery from childhood sexual abuse in the second half of twentieth century Britain and Ireland. Even though child sexual abuse is not an illness, recovery is spoken about in a language borrowed from medicine. What we want to do is learn from the experiences of survivors and practitioners about the many ways that survivors live with the aftermath and the impact of child sexual abuse. Our aim is to do research that will support the building of a CSA survivor archive, and that will explore methods of support beyond medication and therapy.

The research team

We are a team of four researchers in total, and two of us will conduct the ethnography. Dr Adeline Moussion Esteve is a Postdoctoral Researcher on the project. She has been researching sexual violence and domestic abuse for seven years. Her work is grounded on feminist politics. Dr Baljit Kaur is a Research Assistant on the project. Her research background centers youth cultures, social violence and creative and qualitative methods. She has also worked extensively in domestic and sexual violence charities supporting women and children accessing support services. We will be working with a team of researchers from different disciplines and with other organisations. The research is supervised by a Lived Experience Advisory Group, that will provide feedback and guidance on research safety and ethics, the direction and methods of the study, and will contribute to the interpretation and dissemination of the results.

What will happen if you wish to participate?

Participation is entirely voluntary. If you wish to join the research, you will decide how and how much you want to be involved. We can spend time together, meet outside and/or in your home, according to a timeline you decide of. We can do activities together or talk. We can explore your memories by going through some objects, pictures, books, writings, or places you might want to revisit. We can also record unstructured interviews, if that is

something you want to do. If we record interviews, you will choose the topics we discuss. You will be free to refuse to answer any question, to pause or stop, at any time. You are free to withdraw from the research without justification up until the end of data collection.

My aim is to learn about your life as a whole, and not just about the violence you have lived. Every experience is different, all victims and survivors are, so I will adapt to what you want to do, talk about, or show me. I am interested in anything you might want to share, show, and do with me, even (or especially) if it is not talked about in wider society. I will not ask you to detail what happened to you, unless you want to talk about it.

After the interviews, you will be offered a copy of the transcripts to go through them and edit them if you wish. Recordings will be stored securely and only accessible to the research team up until the data collection. After that time, they will be destroyed. We are approaching this project as a co-produced process. This means that after the data collection, we will invite you to join us in the collective analysis, discussion, and dissemination of findings. Please note, if you do choose to take part in the reflection session you will not be anonymous from other participants as people will be able to see each other's faces and names. You will be invited to take part in two witness seminars with practitioners. The aim will be to bring together survivors and practitioners and have common discussions, learn from one another.

Everything you will share with us will be confidential. However, if you tell us anything that suggests that you or someone else is at risk of serious harm, or is of a serious criminal nature, we will have to pass that information over to an appropriate professional.

[What are the risks and benefits of taking part?](#)

Although the project does not offer therapeutic benefits, it will provide a reflective space for you to bring and share your experiences with us on your own terms. It will help us to find out about how survivors have found ways of living with the impact of childhood sexual abuse. Listening to you would help to create a better understanding of survivors' experiences and needs. We hope that you will enjoy taking part. However, you may have some memories that remain difficult in your current life. If you feel distressed at any point, we will give you some advice on organisations or professionals who could support you. We will work with you and our Lived Experience Advisory Group, and you will be able to benefit from at least one one-to-one phone or online session of peer support, delivered by Survivors Voices. Survivors Voice ongoing online support group is also accessible throughout the whole project.

[Expenses and payment](#)

When the research ends, we will offer a voucher in the value of £25 token of appreciation. If you wish to also be compensated in a non-monetary way, this is something that we can discuss. Reasonable travel expenses for participation could also be reimbursed.

[What will happen to the information collected during and after the project?](#)

Observations and audio interview recordings will be transcribed and will be stored on encrypted computers, which will only be accessed by the research team. We may publish our findings in working papers for the funding body, journal articles or books, or other forms of wider audience publications. When interviews are transcribed, anything that identifies you will be changed and you will be offered the possibility to choose the pseudonym of your

choice. Unless you explicitly require it, neither your first name and family name will appear in my notes or in any publication. Data collected will be retained by the researcher only, for an indefinite period for future education or research purposes. You have the opportunity to review and edit the transcripts and any other materials collected.

Your personal data

We will collect your personal data and during your interviews you may reveal protected information (such as, but not limited to your race, ethnic origin, politics, religion, health, sexuality, gender). As a research team, we are interested in this as it tells us about different experiences and how they are shaped by our personal identities. You are free to provide as much or as little information as you are comfortable with.

We will store your personal data securely and we can provide a copy of our data management plan and discuss its contents with you if you would like the detail of this. You may request access to your personal data or to request correction or removal of your personal data by contacting the Data Protection Officer. Publications or reports produced by this project may use quotations from interviews. The research team will confirm with participants how quotations should be attributed. Following research dissemination, your words may be used by other researchers or academics.

If you are unhappy about how your information is handled, you can contact the principal investigator, Dr. Ruth Beecher at r.beecher@bbk.ac.uk. You can also contact, Karen Wells, the chair of the FHSS ethics committee at Birkbeck, k.wells@bbk.ac.uk. You can also contact the Data Protection Officer dpo@bbk.ac.uk. If you are unhappy with our response or you need advice, you may contact the Information Commissioner at casework@ico.org.uk

Who has reviewed the study?

The research proposal has been ethically approved by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Historical Studies on 25 Feb 2025.

Where can I get more information?

For more information please contact:

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Dr Baljit Kaur

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