

Project Mirabal
Information Sheet for Women
Follow-up interviews

You are invited to take part in our research project. Before you decide we would like you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you.

Please read this information sheet carefully to decide whether you wish to take part in the follow-up interviews. One of our team will go through this information sheet with you and answer any questions you have. Please ask us if anything is not clear. You can take your time to decide and to speak to others (including your women's support worker) if you wish.

Why are we doing this research project?

We are doing this research to find out if and how men's programmes and women's support services improve the lives of women and children who experience domestic violence. We want to find out what does work and what does not work so that we can help to make services better in the future.

Who is doing this research?

The research is led by Liz Kelly (London Metropolitan University) and Nicole Westmarland (Durham University) and a team of researchers from London Metropolitan University, Durham University and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. This research has been funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and Northern Rock Foundation. This means that it is an independent piece of academic research. The researchers in the Durham University team that you are most likely to meet are called Julia and Richard and they are led by Nicole Westmarland.

Why have I been asked to take part?

You have been asked to take part because we would like to ask you about your views of the support you and your partner or ex-partner has received so far. You are the best person to discuss these issues and tell us what has/has not contributed to your safety. The follow-up interviews ask for your views on the behaviour of your partner, or ex partner in different areas of your life. It includes topics like communication, his understanding of the impact of his behaviour, violence and abuse and fathering. You are asked to provide short yes/no answers or to select your answer from a list of options.

Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you if you take part. If you choose not to take part it won't make any difference to the help you get from the women's support service or the help that your partner or ex-partner is getting from the programme.

If you do decide to take part you will be asked to sign a consent form to show that you agree to take part in the research project.

If you do agree to take part and then change your mind at any time later you can stop taking part. All you need to do is tell the researcher that you no longer want to take part. If you do not wish for us to keep any information you have told us we will make sure it is destroyed.

What will I have to do?

If you decide to take part, we will ask you to complete: **5 follow-up telephone interviews over one year**

If you agree, we will want to interview you over the phone every 3 months for 1 year. This is a total of 5 follow-up interviews. Each call will take around half an hour of your time. The first interview may take a little longer as we have to collect more information about you and your partner or ex-partner to start with. We will make sure that the discussion takes place at a time and date convenient to you. They can also be organised to fit in to when your partner attends the programme or is out of the house. This interview will not be audio-recorded but the answers you give will be recorded on a questionnaire.

Do I have to answer every question?

No. You do not have to answer all of the questions. If you are uncomfortable or do not want to answer any of the questions just let the researcher know and the question can be skipped.

Will I be named in the research?

No. All identifiable information (e.g. names, location and family make-up) will be changed: this means that what you say is anonymised. No one taking part will be named or identified in any reports or publications that the research team later produce. Any identifiable information about you including contact details needed to arrange the interview will only be seen by authorised persons within the research team.

What will happen to the results of the research project?

An anonymised summary of research will be shared with the programme. The anonymised information may be used for publications and educational purposes. We will archive the anonymised data for a set period of time in case we want to complete a follow-up study. We will also ask for your consent to keep your information for a set period of time in case we need to contact you in the future. If you are interested in reading the findings of the research these will be available on the Respect website <http://www.respect.uk.net>. You will not be named anywhere in any report.

What are the possible problems or risks of taking part?

Whatever you say in the telephone interviews is confidential unless you tell the researcher that you or someone else is in immediate danger of serious harm, or the researcher sees or is told about something that is likely to cause serious harm. If that happens, the researcher will raise this with you during the interview and tell you about what could happen if you continue to talk about it and explore how you would prefer to deal with the situation. The researcher will encourage you to seek support from your programme or other local services to help you to make the situation safer. If the researcher feels unsure that you will go and get support, they will talk to you about what they will need to do and what might happen next. In an extreme case where a child is at serious risk, and you choose not to seek help/advice the researcher has a duty to disclose this to the relevant agencies.

What are the possible benefits of taking part in this research?

Domestic violence support services are experiencing a difficult economic climate and there is a need for more evidence about what works. By taking part in this research you will help services improve and help other women who have or will experience what you have been through. In addition you will receive some high street vouchers for taking part in the follow-up interviews.

Who has reviewed this study?

All research is looked at by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. This research project has been reviewed and approved by the University Research Ethics Committee at London Metropolitan University.

What if there is a problem?

If you have a problem to do with this research, you can either speak to one of the researchers, who will do their best to help. Alternatively you can get in touch with one of the people responsible for the research, by contacting Liz Kelly l.kelly@londonmet.ac.uk on 020 7133 5014 or Nicole Westmarland at nicole.westmarland@durham.ac.uk and on 07786 173809.

If I want to take part what should I do next?

If you are interested in taking part in the follow-up telephone interviews you can either:

1. Give permission to your women's support worker to give us your phone number and we will call you to arrange an interview, or
2. Phone the researchers directly on the numbers below to arrange an interview.

If you have any questions about the research or require further information about the research project please contact the researchers. The phone numbers for the Durham University research team are:

Julia – 07530 575539

Richard – 07527 605616