

Participant Information Sheet

***An exploration of intimate partner violence within same-sex relationships: A qualitative study.***

**About the study**

The aim of the project is to explore the experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV) within same-sex relationships using qualitative methods. Research has demonstrated the frequency of IPV within both heterosexual and homosexual relationships; the majority of these studies has used large scale quantitative based studies and has disproportionately focused on heterosexual IPV. The aim of the current study, by utilising a qualitative method, is to allow the exploration of the experiences of both perpetration and victimisation of physical aggression and controlling behaviour.

**Some questions you may have about the research project:**

**Why have you asked me to take part?**

Your participation is important as you have identified that you are (or have recently been) within a same-sex relationship where there has been the presence of aggressive and/or controlling behaviour that you have been victim to.

**What will I be required to do?**

The study requires that you take part in an online interview to discuss your experiences of aggression and conflict in relationships, this will take about an hour.

**Where will this take place?**

This will take place online and so can be completed anywhere you have internet access. It’s important that you feel safe when completing this online interview, please take care to ensure this is done in a place where you would not place yourself in danger if your partner found you completing the interview. During the interview you will also be given instructions on how to delete your browser history if you are worried about someone finding out you took part in it.

**How often will I have to take part and for how long?**

Just once, and for approximately an hour.

**When will I have the opportunity to discuss my participation?**

You can contact me to discuss your participation before, during or afterwards. Please find my contact details below.

**Who will be responsible for all the information when the study is over?**

I will, your anonymous data will be analysed and a research report written.

**Who will have access to it?**

Only myself and my co-researchers Lauren Bolam (S1106364@uni.cumbria.ac.uk) and Dr Abi Thornton (TBC).

**How long will data be kept and where?**

Data will be kept for a period of 5 years. Transcripts of the interview will be saved in a password protected file. The private online forums will be deleted so your data can never be traced.

**What will happen to the information when this study is over?**

The data will be used to write a research report about the nature of aggression and control in same-sex relationships. It is further hoped that the findings will be used to help tailor facilities and services to ensure victims receive the best possible support.

**How will you use what you find out?**

When the data is analysed, a research report will be written which will be submitted in a journal and presented at a conference.

**Will anyone be able to connect me with what is recorded and reported?**

No, your data is completely anonymous and there will be no way of identifying your responses from the data set.

**How long is the whole study likely to last?**

The whole study should be completed within 12-18 months.

**How can I find out about the results of the study?**

A short summary report of the research findings will be available from the researcher upon request either by phone or e-mail.

**What if I do not wish to take part?**

Your participation in the study is entirely voluntary.

**What if I change my mind during the study?**

You are free to withdraw during the study at any time without having to provide a reason for doing so.

**Will I need to sign any documentation?**

No, you will be asked at the beginning of the interview if you have read and understood the information you’ve been given and if you consent to take part. If you answer yes, then the interview will proceed.

**Whom should I contact if I have any further questions?**

Please contact the researcher directly (details below) at anytime, even after the study is complete.

***Researcher Contact Information:***

*Dr Elizabeth A. Bates*

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