COVID19 rapid assessment – strengthening public health responses to violence against women and children

Information Sheet & Consent Form

Researchers: Heidi Stöckl and Isabelle Pearson (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine [LSHTM]), Zara Quigg and Nadia Butler (Liverpool John Moores University [LJMU]), and Zhamin Yelgezekova (World Health Organization [WHO])

You are invited to take part in this research study as part of your membership in the Healthy City Network. Before you decide if you want to take part, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it involves. Please take time to read the following information. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide if you want to take part or not.

What is the purpose of the study?
To support WHO European Member States to strengthen public health responses to violence against women and children, we are conducting a rapid assessment to explore how COVID-19 public health measures of physical distancing and isolation affect violence against women and children across the life course, and identify innovative approaches to preventing and responding to violence against women and children during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Why have I been invited to take part?
You have been invited to take part because you have been identified as someone who is involved in either the design, implementation or delivery of policy and/or practice relating to violence against women and children or are someone who can provide a good understanding of the topic at local or country level.

Do I have to take part?
No, participation is voluntary. It is up to you to decide whether to take part or not. If you wish to take part, please complete the consent form which can be found at the end of this information sheet.

What will happen to me if I take part?
You will be asked to take part in short questionnaire, which will explore how local or country level COVID-19 public health measures have affected violence against women and children across the life course, and how COVID-19 health and other sector responses affect access to health care and other support for women and children affected by, or at risk of violence. We would be grateful if you could fill out the entire questionnaire by selecting the appropriate answers and providing any additional information that you may have (e.g. policy documents, surveys, case studies, other relevant publications) to enable us to understand the situation in your local authority/country. The survey should take no more than 1 hour to complete, depending on the amount of information you can share. You do not have to answer any questions that you do not want to answer. At the end of the

survey, you may be asked if you would be willing to take part in an interview, to explore your answers in more detail. If you want to take part in an interview, you will be asked to provide an email address or phone number so that we can contact you. Those contact details will be held separately from the answers you provided in the survey and deleted once the data collection for the project ended. No other use will be made of your email address without your written permission, and no one outside the project will be allowed access it. The questionnaire is available in English and Russian languages. Please return your completed questionnaire to the research team at isabelle.pearson@lshtm.ac.uk. To allow time to complete analyses, we would be grateful if you could fill in the questionnaire by 27th July 2020.

What are the possible benefits and risks of taking part?

Whilst there are no direct benefits to you for taking part in this research, the information we generate will help to support WHO European Member States to strengthen public health responses to violence against women and children. We do not anticipate there will be any disadvantages or risks for you in taking part.

What will happen to the data provided and how will my taking part be kept confidential?

Your participation in this study may involve the collection of some personal data. This data will be held confidential and only information about your city will be released. Data will be accessible to the research team at LSHTM, LJMU and WHO only. No personal identifiable data/information will be transferred outside of the European Economic Area. You **will not be identifiable** in any ensuing reports or publications.

What will happen to the results of the research?

The findings will be published in a report and academic publication, presented in a webinar and other outputs that will be made available on the WHO, LSHTM and LJMU websites. If you would like a copy, please contact us using the details below. The results may also be published in articles and shared at conferences and local events.

Who is organising and funding/commissioning the research?

The research being conducted is organised by the LSHTM and LJMU and is funded by WHO. If you have any questions or want more information you can contact the researchers using the information below, either before, during, or after you have participated.

Who has reviewed this study?

This study has received ethical approval from LSHTM's Research Ethics Committee (Reference number 22500) and LJMU's ethics committee. A Research Ethics Committee is a group of independent people who review research to protect the dignity, rights, safety and well-being of participants and researchers.

Contact for further information

If you wish to speak to someone about the research, you can talk to Dr. Heidi Stöckl Heidi.Stoeckl@lshtm.ac.uk +4420 7927 2506

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CONSENT FORM

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1. I have read the information sheet and I am happy to participate. I understand that by completing this survey I am consenting to be part of this study and for my data to be used as described in the information provided above. ☐

2. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason and that this will not affect my legal rights ☐

3. I understand that any personal information collected during the study will be anonymised and remain confidential ☐

Name of Participant Date Signature

Name of Researcher Date Signature

(1 copy for participant and 1 copy for researcher)