



Information sheet for accredited mental health professionals participating in Safe Relationships Project



Who are we?

We are a team of researchers at University College London. Our research focuses on understanding the connection between childhood maltreatment and intimate partner violence victimisation.

Dr. Patrizia Pezzoli is leading this project, and is supported by Raiza Sali.

Contact us

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Thank you for your interest in our research project. Before deciding whether to participate, it is important that you understand why we are doing this research and what it means to take part. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

What is this research about?

Individuals who have experienced childhood maltreatment (such as abuse and neglect) are more likely to face violence in their intimate relationships later in life. This is commonly known as intimate partner violence or domestic abuse and can take various forms, like emotional and physical abuse.

This research project seeks to understand why individuals with a history of childhood maltreatment might find themselves in such relationships, and what therapeutic interventions may help them towards developing safe and healthy relationships. To understand this better, we want to speak to accredited mental health professionals who have experience working with adolescents or adults who have experienced both childhood maltreatment and intimate partner violence victimisation (whether or not they also engaged in perpetration). Your views can contribute to a deeper understanding of these experiences and how they can be addressed. You will be given a £15 shopping voucher (e.g. Amazon, M&S) as a 'thank you' if you decide to take part in the project.

Who can take part?

We invite UK-based **accredited mental health professionals** (psychologists, psychiatrists, psychotherapists, counsellors etc.) who have experience working with IPV victims (including adolescents and adults), as well as with couples directly affected by IPV (i.e., where one or both partners engage in IPV). This study is open to those registered with a professional body accredited by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA), such as the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP), United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy (UKCP), British Psychoanalytic Council, Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), British Psychological Society (BPS), or British Association for Behavioural & Cognitive Psychotherapies (BABCP). They may also be registered with the General Medical Council (GMC), Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych), or a similar professional accreditation body.

Our website

www.saferelationshipsproject.co.uk



What will happen if I take part?

We will arrange a time that's good for you to have a **pre-interview phone call (5 minutes)**. During this call we will introduce ourselves, talk through the information on this sheet, tell you the next steps in the research and answer any questions you have. You can then go away and think about taking part.

Next you will complete a **'consent form' (3 minutes)** – a form you use to tell us whether you would like to take part, now that you have learned more about the research. You can complete the form on your own online, or we would be happy to do this form with you over the phone or via video call if you prefer. Even if you decide you would like to take part and complete the form, you are still free to stop participating at any time during the study.

Then, you will complete a **short questionnaire (3 minutes)** that takes about 5 minutes to complete. The questionnaire will ask about your demographics (such as age and gender) and some basic information about your professional qualifications and experience. If you prefer, we can share the full list of questions before you agree to take part.

Next, we will arrange a good time for us to do the **interview (up to 60 minutes)**. The interview will take place online and can last up to 1 hour. In the interview, we will talk about things like what helps people who experienced childhood maltreatment to have safe relationships or what you think can make them more vulnerable to intimate partner violence.

Participants are free to withdraw from the study at any stage.

If you wish to withdraw after participating in the interview, you can request the deletion of your data for up to two weeks.

Who will know I am taking part?

We won't tell anyone that you are taking part in our study, but you can tell other people about it if you want to. We will use stringent data handling protocols to ensure privacy and confidentiality. Any information that we collect will be pseudo-anonymised and stored securely in line with the Data Protection Act 2018.

Where will my information be stored and who will have access to it?

You will be given an ID number which we will use to link your answers. We will audio record the interview so that we can catch everything we talk about. The audio recording of your interview will be stored safely and typed up by a member of the research team. We will not include in the transcript any details that could potentially identify you or your patients/clients (such as names and locations).

Your name, contact details, consent form, questionnaire answers and interview recording and transcripts will all be locked with a password and stored in an access-restricted folder on the University College London's secure server (in line with the Data Protection Act 2018). This means that only trained and approved members of the research team will be able to see the information you give us.

Once we have finished the research, your data will be kept securely for a maximum of 10 years. Please note, you may request that your data to be deleted, but you must tell us within two weeks of participating. This is because after two weeks, your data will be pseudo-anonymised and analysed. After the analyses, we will not be able to remove your data specifically.



What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

There are no expected risks of taking part. However, we understand that these are complex topics to discuss, so you can always take your time and ask to skip questions if you would like. There are no right or wrong answers, and it is also up to you how much or how little you share with us about your professional experience.

We are aware of the potential impact of vicarious trauma and will be mindful of this throughout the study, ensuring a supportive and considerate approach while providing you with resources for additional support if needed.

We also understand that you may have a demanding schedule. We promise to respect your time by keeping interviews within the agreed timeframe and offering flexible scheduling.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no immediate benefits for those people participating in the project. However, we hope that this work will help us understand why some people exposed to childhood maltreatment end up experiencing further harm, and how to support them in developing safe intimate relationships.

What if something goes wrong?

The research has been checked by a Research Ethics Committee at University College London, REF: 0484. They make sure that the research is fair. If you have a concern about any part of this study, please get in touch with Raiza Sali using the contact details, or Dr Patrizia Pezzoli. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this by contacting the Chair of the ethics committee using ethics@ucl.ac.uk.

What will happen to the results of this study?

We will share our overall findings with the scientific community, for example in a research journal, and more widely to the public too. Participants may request a copy of the findings in the consent form.

Who is funding this study?

This research is funded by University College London (UCL).

Data Protection Privacy Notice

The controller for this project will be University College London (UCL). The UCL Data Protection Officer provides oversight of UCL activities involving the processing of personal data, and can be contacted at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk

This 'local' privacy notice sets out the information that applies to this particular study. Further information on how UCL uses participant information can be found in our 'general' privacy notice. For participants in health and care research studies, click [here](#)

The information that is required to be provided to participants under data protection legislation (GDPR and DPA 2018) is provided across both the 'local' and 'general' privacy notices. The lawful basis that will be used to process your personal data is: 'public task' and 'research purposes' will be the lawful basis for processing special category data. Your personal data will be processed so long as it is required for the research project. If we are able to anonymise or pseudonymise the personal data, you provide we will undertake this and will endeavour to minimise the processing of personal data wherever possible.

If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, or if you would like to contact us about your rights, please contact UCL in the first instance at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk

Want to take part?

That's great! All you need to do is email us, or complete this very quick 'sign up' form.

