



## Participant Information Leaflet: Reproductive Citizenship

### Group A – Abortion Seekers

#### Invitation Paragraph

You are being invited to take part in a research study about Reproductive Citizenship. This study is a collaboration between researchers in the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin and the School of Applied Policy and Social Sciences, Ulster University. The research team have extensive experience in abortion policy, and in researching the experiences of those who have had abortions. The purpose of the study is to explore how women and people who can get pregnant feel about their sense of belonging in Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland following legal change after 2018. We are also interviewing those involved in providing abortions or information about provision since the law was changed.

Participation is voluntary.

Before you decide if you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what taking part involves.

Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. You can contact the research team ROI: Dr Kate Antosik-Parsons by email: [kantolik@tcd.ie](mailto:kantosik@tcd.ie) or NI: Emma Campbell by email: [e.campbell@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:e.campbell@ulster.ac.uk)

#### What is the purpose of the study?

Until 2019, abortion was illegal, with little exception, on both parts of the island of Ireland. On both parts of the island, legal change has meant abortion care is now a part of legal reproductive health care. For people seeking abortion care since 2019, this has meant being able to access abortion care at home, where previously they would have had to travel abroad.

This study explores how women and people who can get pregnant feel about their sense of belonging in each country because they can now access this care at home.

We are interested to see how the legal regulation of reproductive health shapes people's sense of belonging to the state they live in, or what we call reproductive citizenship.



We want to capture how the historic changes impacted on women and people who can get pregnant across the island. We want to interview people who have had abortions since abortion care was introduced in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland after 2018. We want to hear how people feel about the legal change that has made abortion available at home instead of having to travel as before.

We will do this through confidential one-to-one interviews with people who have accessed abortion in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland since legalisation.

### Why have I been chosen to participate?

You are being invited to participate in this study because you have indicated your interest in taking part in the research study and have provided the study team with your contact details.

We are hoping to have between 40-80 participants in the study. We will be interviewing c. 60 people who have had abortions since the legal change. We will also interview c.20 providers and advocates for abortion access who have helped people access abortion since the legal change.

Anyone over the age of 18 who has had an abortion on the island of Ireland or who has travelled abroad from Ireland to access abortion since 2019, regardless of their legal and citizenship status, is invited to take part.

### Do I have to take part?

No, you do not have to take part. Taking part in this research study is entirely voluntary.

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information leaflet to keep and asked to sign a consent form.

If you decide to take part in the interview, you are still free to change your mind at any time during the interview and without giving a reason.

You can withdraw your information from this study within 30 days of the interview taking place by contacting the research team (contact details are listed on page 5). If you decide to do so all material regarding your participation will be deleted. After this point, we will no longer be able to identify you as we will break the link between your identity and your transcript.

### What will happen to me if I take part?



If you decide to take part, you will be invited to an interview with either Kate Antosik-Parsons or Emma Campbell, whose contact details are provided at the end of this leaflet.

We would like to interview you at a time and location that is convenient for you, for example your home or another location or online through either MS Teams or Zoom. The interview will take one hour and with your permission will be audio recorded. During the interview you will be asked questions about whether being able to access abortion care locally mattered. The conversation will explore what you understood about the availability of abortion, your recollection of the process of changing the law, and whether local availability of abortion made a difference when you were seeking this healthcare. You do not have to answer questions on any issue you prefer not to discuss.

A member of the research team or a professional transcriber will transcribe the audio from the interview by typing it up. Once transcribed, the audio files will be deleted. The transcript will be de-identified by a member of the research team by changing any identifying details. We will destroy the link between you and your transcript, 30 days after the interview has taken place. After that point, no one will be able to connect the transcript to you.

#### What are the benefits of taking part?

There will be no direct benefits to participants, however we hope the results of the study will help us to understand what the legal provision of abortion means for people seeking care. We think it is important for policy makers to have an understanding of this when considering the direction and review of these laws in the future.

#### What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

We have taken all measures to minimise any risk to you. All information will be treated confidentially.

Talking about your overall experience all in one sitting may impact on you as you realise possible strains you were under and difficulties you have overcome. If the interview touches on topics that may bring up difficult memories, you can always choose not to answer a question or to stop the interview without giving reasons. The interviewer will stop the session.

If after the interview you need support or want to talk to someone about the thoughts or feelings raised, you can contact some of the organisations listed at the end of this information leaflet. You can also contact the interviewer to ask for advice – see contact details below.



### Will my participation in this study be kept confidential?

Yes, your privacy is important to us. All information will be kept strictly confidential.

- Paper consent forms will be stored securely and separately to other research information so they cannot be linked in research teams locked offices.
- Electronic consent forms, will be stored securely on TCD provided SharePoint site.
- All Consent forms will be stored for 30 days after the interview, after which time the interview will be fully anonymised and the consent form will be securely destroyed.
- Audio recordings will be stored securely on password protected computers in Trinity College Dublin and Ulster University, until they are transcribed and verified. They will then be securely deleted.
- If we use a professional transcriber, they are bound under contract to keep the information confidential.
- We will remove any identifying information from the transcript and replace it with a pseudonym.
- All research information is stored under a code and not your name.

Please note that there are statutory limitations of confidentiality. Confidentiality may be breached in circumstances in which the research team has a strong belief or evidence exists that there is a serious risk of harm or danger to you or another person. By law, we are obliged to report any inadvertent discovery relating to activities such as physical, emotional or sexual abuse, concerns for child protection, suicidal intent or criminal activity. In such instances, information may be disclosed to significant others or appropriate third parties without permission being sought from you.

### What will happen to the results of this research?

The researchers will publish the results of this study in academic journals, presentations to policy makers and advocacy organisations to share the insights generated by this research. In all publications and presentations, research participants' anonymity and confidentiality will be fully protected.

### Who will access my personal data?



Only the researchers (contact details provided at the end of this leaflet) will access your personal data. They will replace your name with a code on your transcript, so that it will not be possible to link back this information to you directly.

#### How long will my personal data be retained for?

Your consent form will be retained until all other information is anonymized (30 days after the interview).

#### Will my personal data be used in future studies?

No, we will not use your personal data for future research.

Only fully anonymised transcripts will be used by the research team in further studies on the topic of abortion. Fully anonymised transcripts will be archived in a data repository ten years after the completion of the study and will be available to researchers working on related topics in future studies.

#### Has this study been approved by a research ethics committee?

Yes, this study has been approved by the School of Social Work and Social Policy Research Ethics Committee (REC). Approval was granted on 29.06.2023 Ref:2525. An annual report will be provided to the REC and on completion of the study. This study has also been approved by the School of Applied Social and Policy Sciences Ethics Filter Committee (FCASPS), Ulster University. Approval Number: FCASPS-23-015-A.

#### Who is organising and funding this study?

This study is funded by a Higher Education Authority (HEA) North-South Research Programme whose aim is to deliver an all-island approach to research and innovation and serves to strengthen links between higher education institutions, research communities, and researchers across the island of Ireland.

#### Is there any payment for taking part?

No, we are not paying participants to take part in the study.

#### What do I do if I have any further questions?



If you have any questions or concerns regarding your participation in the study please ask the researcher that gave you this information leaflet for further information. They will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Principal Investigator, <b>Dr Catherine Conlon,</b> Associate Professor in Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin at +353 1 896 1312; email: conlonce@tcd.ie	Co-Investigator, <b>Dr Fiona Bloomer,</b> Senior Lecturer in School of Applied Social and Policy Sciences, Ulster University, at +44 28 95365039; email: fk.bloomer@ulster.ac.uk
<b>Dr Kate Antosik-Parsons,</b> Research Fellow, School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin email: <a href="mailto:kantosik@tcd.ie">kantolik@tcd.ie</a> .	<b>Dr Emma Campbell,</b> Research Fellow, School of Applied Social and Policy Sciences, Ulster University, email: e.campbell@ulster.ac.uk

## Data Protection Information

Data Controller	Trinity College Dublin Ulster University
Data Protection Officer (Ireland)	TCD Data Protection Officer Secretary's Office Trinity College Dublin Dublin 2 Ireland Email: <a href="mailto:dataprotection@tcd.ie">dataprotection@tcd.ie</a> Website: <a href="http://www.tcd.ie/privacy">www.tcd.ie/privacy</a>
Data Protection Officer (Northern Ireland)	UU University Secretary and Data Protection Officer, Mrs Clare Jamison, Ulster University, Room J312 Coleraine, BT52 1SA Northern Ireland Email: c.jamison@ulster.ac.uk <u>Website:</u> <a href="http://www.ulster.ac.uk/about/governance/compliance/gdpr">www.ulster.ac.uk/about/governance/compliance/gdpr</a>



## What is the lawful basis to use my personal data?

All data obtained from the interviews will only be used for this research study to better understand the impact of legal change regarding abortion in Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The legal basis for processing your personal data is Article 6(1)(e) of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The condition for processing your sensitive personal data is Article 9(2)(j) GDPR.

## What are my rights in relation to your use of my personal data?

You are entitled to request any of the rights below unless it would make it impossible or very difficult to carry out the research study within 30 days of the interview taking place. After this stage the key will be deleted and the interview transcript will be fully anonymised

- The right to access to your personal data;
- The right to receive a copy of your personal data;
- The right to ask us to restrict our use of your personal data;
- The right to ask us to correct inaccurate information about you; or
- The right to ask us to delete your personal data.

You are entitled to object to any further processing of the information we hold about you (except where it is de-identified).

You can exercise these rights or learn more about data protection in relation to this study by contacting the PI [Catherine Conlon at [conlonce@tcd.ie](mailto:conlonce@tcd.ie)] or the Trinity College Data Protection Officer (contact details above).

Please note that these rights relate to data which could identify you (personal data). If your data has been anonymised, we will not be able to access or delete it as we will have no way of being able to link the data to you.

If you are unhappy with how we have used your personal data, you can raise a concern with the Data Protection Commission via their online form -

<https://forms.dataprotection.ie/contact> - or contact the Commission at:

Data Protection Commission  
21 Fitzwilliam Square South  
Dublin 2  
D02 RD28  
Ireland  
<https://www.dataprotection.ie>



## Support Services

<p>MyOptions 1800 828 010</p>	<p>Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA) Phone: 1850 49 50 51 Email: <a href="mailto:reception@ifpa.ie">reception@ifpa.ie</a> Website: <a href="https://www.ifpa.ie/e">https://www.ifpa.ie/e</a></p>
<p>Dublin Well Woman Centre 35 Liffey Street Lower, Dublin 1 Website: <a href="http://www.wellwomancentre.ie">http://www.wellwomancentre.ie</a> Phone: 01 872 8051 / 01 872 8095 Email: <a href="mailto:liffeyreception@dublinwellwoman.com">liffeyreception@dublinwellwoman.com</a></p>	<p>One Family 8 Coke Lane, Dublin 7 Phone: 1890 66 22 12 Email: <a href="mailto:info@onefamily.ie">info@onefamily.ie</a> Website: <a href="http://www.onefamily.ie">www.onefamily.ie</a></p>
<p>Informing Choices NI (Central Office) 3rd Floor, Ascot House, 24-31 Shaftesbury Square Belfast, BT2 7DB Tel: 028 9031 6100 Email: <a href="mailto:info@informingchoicesni.org">info@informingchoicesni.org</a></p>	<p>Common Youth (Central office) CQHQ 23-31 Waring Street (2nd Floor) Belfast, BT1 2DX 028 9032 8866 <a href="mailto:hello@commonyouth.com">hello@commonyouth.com</a></p>
<p>Informing Choices NI (North West Office) 4th Floor, Northern Counties Building, 22-24 Waterloo Place Derry, BT48 6BU Tel: 028 71 260016 Email: <a href="mailto:info@informingchoicesni.org">info@informingchoicesni.org</a></p>	<p>Common Youth (Coleraine office) 20B Abbey Street Coleraine, BT52 1DU 028 7034 2178 <a href="mailto:hello@commonyouth.com">hello@commonyouth.com</a></p>