

## **PARTICIPANT'S PARENTS INFORMATION SHEET**

**Title of Study: Religious discrimination at school: how do children reason about endorsing rights to minorities?**

**University of Surrey Ref: FHMS 19-20 080 EGA**

**PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET FOR YOUR RECORDS**

### **Section: Taking Part**

#### **Invitation Paragraph**

We would like to invite your child to participate in this research project. They should only participate if they want to; choosing not to take part will not disadvantage them in any way. Before you decide whether you want them take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what the participation will involve. If you have any questions you can contact us using the contact details at the end of this information sheet.

The study is being undertaken by Silvia Miele, PhD student at the University of Surrey. The researcher is fully trained and has received enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

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

The aim and objectives of this study is to investigate how children reason about endorsing religious and non-religious rights.

We are specifically interested in children between 10 and 11 and between 14 and 15 years old attending school in the UK.

This will involve an online survey.

#### **Who is responsible for this study?**

This study is the responsibility of Silvia Miele at the University of Surrey and her supervisors Dr. Harriet Tenenbaum and Dr. Patrice Rusconi.

#### **Why has my child been invited to take part?**

Your child is invited to participate in this study because they are studying in a primary or secondary school in the UK.

### **Does my child have to take part?**

Participation is voluntary and your child does not have to take part. We will describe the study in this information sheet and will give as much time as you need to read this, so you can decide whether you wish your child to take part in this study. Please contact us if there is anything that is not clear, or if you have any questions, or if you would like more information.

### **What will happen to my child if I decide for him to take part?**

If you decide for your child to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and will be asked to sign a consent form to confirm your agreement for your child to participate. You will be given a copy of this consent form to keep. We will then conduct an online survey that takes approximately 40 minutes; 5 minutes will be allocated to the introduction and 5 to the debriefing. This will take place online via University of Surrey Microsoft Teams account. The answers will be entered on a tablet during the interview and will be audio-recorded too. Tapes will be identified only by a code and will not be used or made available for any purposes other than the research project. We will destroy these tapes at the end of the study. They will not be shared outside the research team. The recordings and their transcriptions will be transferred to University of Surrey online server and deleted on the recording device. Only the research team (PhD student and supervisors) may be given access to this. Once the data analysis will be completed, both the recordings and the transcriptions will be deleted.

No personal identifiable information will be in the recordings as each participant will be assigned a code number.

### **What happens if I do not want my child to take part or if I change my mind?**

You will also be able to withdraw the data you/your child have provided up to one month after the survey. Following this time, as the interview will be transcribed and fully anonymised, it will not be possible to remove the information provided. I will delete all personal information provided by you apart from the consent and the assent form, which will be retained online for 2 years after the study completion. There will be no physical copies of any document.

### **What are the possible benefits in taking part?**

Whilst there are no immediate benefits for those people participating in the project, it is hoped that participants will be given the chance to reflect on people's practices and express their own opinions and views. Furthermore, results will be discussed with the schools involved in the research and will aid them build a more inclusive environment.

Moreover, links will be made with charities involved in Education (such as NatCen, AQA and NFER) and children rights (for example Unicef or Action Aid) in order to work on the design and implementation of educational programmes based on the study's findings. Connection with the third sector will be also aimed at re-shaping policies on human rights.

Overall, this study attempts to create a more inclusive society by reducing discrimination towards religious minorities. In fact, understanding the way people reason about minorities rights will enable tackling prejudice. Furthermore, this research will give children and underrepresented groups the chance to express their opinions and feelings about religious discrimination.

### **Are there any potential risks involved?**

Participants' fatigue:

Frequent breaks will be allowed during the administration of the survey so that children will be able to take the breaks they need. The survey's questions have been tailored on children.

Psychological distress:

Depending on the nature of your child's experiences, it is possible that matters that we touch on may be sensitive to him/her. However, they may ask for a break from the interview or withdraw from it at any time. Questions have been worded in order to be suitable for children and to minimise any distress. The researcher will be wary of any sign of distress while conducting the interview and will immediately interrupt it if needed. The survey is followed by a debriefing where the researcher is also available to answer any questions.

Information on sources of support can be found at the end of this information sheet.

### **How is the project being funded?**

This research is a student project as part of a PhD. This is funded by the University of Surrey Doctoral College.

### **Will my child's participation be kept confidential?**

All the information that we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential and only accessed by members of the research team (PhD student and her two supervisors). It will not be possible to identify your child in any ensuing reports or publications.

### **Will my/my child's data be shared or used in future research studies?**

No, your data will be used only for the purposes of this PhD research.

### **What will happen to the results of the study?**

We aim to publish the results from the research study in peer reviewed scientific journals and present them at conferences. Any published findings or quotations will use pseudonyms and will maintain your confidentiality and anonymity. You will not be personally identified in any reports or publications.

You can contact the study team to find out the results of the research at [s.miele@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:s.miele@surrey.ac.uk).

### **Who has reviewed this study?**

This research has been reviewed by an independent group of people, called an Ethics Committee. This study was reviewed and given a favourable ethical opinion by the University of Surrey.

## Section: Your personal data

### **What is personal data?**

‘Personal Data’ means any information that identifies both you and your child as an individual. We will be collecting and using some of your child’s personal data that is relevant to completing the study and this section describes what that means.

The information that we will collect will include gender, age, audio recordings, which is regarded as ‘personal data’ and ethnic origin, nationality and religion, which is regarded as a ‘special category personal data’. We will use this information as explained in the ‘What is the purpose of the study’ section above.

Consent sheets for parents (which contain parents’ names and surnames) and assent forms for children (which contain children’s names and surnames) will be scanned. Physical copies will be shredded while electronic ones will be kept on a password-protected University of Surrey folder. These will be retained for 2 years after study completion.

### **Who is handling my/my child’s personal data?**

The University of Surrey, who has the legal responsibility for managing the personal data in this study, will act as the ‘Data Controller’ for this study. The research team will process your personal data on behalf of the controller and are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

### **What will happen to my/my child’s personal data?**

As a publicly funded organisation, we have to ensure that when we use **identifiable personal** information from people who have agreed to take part in research, that this data is processed fairly and lawfully. The University of Surrey processes personal data for the purposes of carrying out

research in the **public interest** and special category data is processed on an additional condition necessary for **research purposes**. This means that when you agree to take part in this research study, we will use and look after your data in the ways needed to achieve the outcomes of the study.

Your/your child personal data will be held and processed in the strictest confidence, and in accordance with current data protection regulations. When acting as the data controller, the University will keep identifiable information about you (consent sheet) for 2 years after the study has finished after which time any identifiers will be removed from the aggregated research data.

Your rights to access, change or move your/your child information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. You will be able to withdraw the data that has been provided up to one month after the survey. Following this time, as the interview will be transcribed and fully anonymised, it will not be possible to remove the information provided.

Yours and your child's data will be shared only with the research team (PhD student and two supervisors).

If you have any queries about the way in which we process your or your child's data for this research project please contact us at [s.miele@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:s.miele@surrey.ac.uk) so that we can address any concerns you may have.

If you then wish to make a complaint, you can contact our Data Protection Officer Suzie Mereweather who will investigate the matter ([dataprotection@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@surrey.ac.uk)). If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data in a way that is not lawful, you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) (<https://ico.org.uk/>).

You can find out more about how we use your information <https://www.surrey.ac.uk/information-management/data-protection> and/or by contacting [dataprotection@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@surrey.ac.uk).

## Section: Further information

### **What if you have a query or something goes wrong?**

If you are unsure about something you can contact the research team for further advice using the contact details at the bottom of this information sheet.

However, if your query has not been handled to your satisfaction, or if you are unhappy and wish to make a formal complaint to someone independent of the research team, then please contact:

Research Integrity and Governance Office (RIGO)  
Research and Innovation Services  
University of Surrey  
Senate House, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 7XH  
Phone: +44 (0)1483 689110  
Email: [rigo@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:rigo@surrey.ac.uk)

The University has in place the relevant insurance policies which apply to this study. If you wish to complain or have any concerns about any aspect of the way you have been treated during the course of this study, then you should follow the instructions given above.

If you are based in the UK and completing this study raises any issues for you, then you can find a counsellor at [www.bacp.co.uk](http://www.bacp.co.uk) or you can consult NHS Choices (<https://www.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx>) to find support services in your area.

### **Who should I contact for further information?**

If you have any questions or require more information about this study, please contact the research team using the following contact details:

Silvia Miele, PhD student  
[s.miele@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:s.miele@surrey.ac.uk)  
07424344046

**Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research.**