

INFORMATION SHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Teachers and Social Cohesion in South Africa

Dear Participant,

You are requested to participate in our study that forms part of a wider research into teachers and social cohesion. Your participation may include an interview, the completion of a questionnaire and/or being part of a focus group. This information leaflet will help make sure you fully understand what is involved before you agree to take part.

WHAT IS THE STUDY ALL ABOUT?

Teachers are key determinants of education quality and play a key role in nation building, identity construction and peace and reconciliation). What teachers do with learning resources shapes what children and young people learn, influencing their identities as well as providing them with skills for employment and peace building. Teachers' agency "in developing values of mutual respect and tolerance" is important in "a postwar context characterized by persisting division and mistrust" (Davies, 2011b: 47). Teacher training is evidently seen as a fundamental element of post-conflict reconstruction but there are doubts about both its relevance and effectiveness

The research will explore how teachers are framed and supported in their roles as agents of social cohesion: how they experience this support; how their practices and attitudes are influenced by national and international educational policies, and the outcome for learners.

This research will be embedded in UNICEF's Peacebuilding, Education and Advocacy Programme (2012-2016) and will be conducted in partnership with local UNICEF Country offices.

The project is funded by the ESRC/DfID Joint Fund for Poverty Alleviation to research the role of teachers in peacebuilding in the post-conflict contexts of Rwanda and South Africa and links with a wider five-country research consortium on education and peacebuilding, which in addition to Rwanda and South Africa looks at Myanmar, Uganda and Pakistan in the areas of teachers, youth and educational policy.

To find out more about the Research Consortium, please access the web-page at <http://learningforpeace.unicef.org/partners/research-consortium/>

WHAT WILL YOU BE ASKED TO DO IN THE STUDY?

As a key role-player you will be asked to participate in an interview, complete a questionnaire, and may be selected to participate in a focus group.

If you decide to take part in the study, you will be provided with this information sheet to keep and will be asked to do the following:

- To sign an informed consent form.
- To participate in the discussion. Discussions will be audio-taped, and you will be provided with the summary of the interview.

CAN ANY OF THE STUDY PROCEDURES RESULT IN PERSONAL RISK, DISCOMFORT OR INCONVENIENCE?

The study involves no foreseeable physical discomfort or inconvenience to you.

WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS AS A PARTICIPANT IN THIS STUDY?

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. If you agree to take part, you are free to withdraw at any time without having to provide a reason.

HOW WILL CONFIDENTIALITY AND ANONYMITY BE ENSURED IN THE STUDY?

All information obtained about you will be regarded as strictly confidential. The study data will be coded so that it will not be linked to your name, and your real name will not be used in the report. All the data that are collected will be stored in a secure and locked office at the CPUT research centre. All electronic information will be stored on a password-protected computer at the university centre. Privacy and confidentiality of all participants will be protected at all costs, and collected data will only be used for research purposes.

HAS THE STUDY RECEIVED ETHICAL APPROVAL?

Yes. This study has been approved by the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) as well as the Eastern Cape Education Department (EC DoE). This part of the project has received ethical clearance from the home university, Cape Peninsula University of Technology and from the Social Sciences Cluster-based Research Ethics Committee (C-REC) of the University of Sussex. All aspects of the study will be conducted according to accepted research ethical principles.

CONTACT PERSONS

If you have any queries about the study, please contact Professor Y Sayed, South African Research Chair in Teacher Education and Director of CITE at [sayedy@cput.ac.za](mailto:sayed@cput.ac.za), Professor A Badroodien, Deputy Director: CITE at badroodiena@cput.ac.za or Lorna Balie, Research Coordinator at baliel@cput.ac.za.

A FINAL WORD

Your co-operation and participation in the study will be greatly appreciated. Please sign two consent forms if you agree to participate in the study. In such a case, you will receive a copy of the signed consent form from the researcher and give another signed copy to the researcher.
