

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

Research Ethics Committee Reference Number: MR/16/17-4787



Project title: Precarious Places: Social cohesion, resilience and place attachment in refugee-host interactions

- I would like to invite you to participate in a university research project led by Dr Helen Adams at King's College London in the UK, in collaboration with NGOs Christian Aid and [local NGO].
- Participation is completely voluntary – please only participate if you find the ideas interesting and want to; choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in anyway.
- We will go through some information on the project to help you decide whether to participate. You'll then have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss participation.

1. *What is the purpose of the study?*

- The purpose of the study is to understand the different ways in which people think about home, identity and belonging, and how our thinking changes over time and with our circumstances.
- Our aim is to inform the activities of local and international NGOs working with displaced people and local host communities.

2. *What will taking part involve?*

- If you decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and will be asked to give verbal consent.
- Participation involves a one-off informal interview that will last about an hour and take place in a private place convenient to you. The interview can take place now, or any time over the next two days when you are free. Your interviewer will either be Lebanese, or British and working with a Lebanese translator. Both interviewers are women.
- The researcher will ask you questions about what you think about your life in Lebanon, what you miss about your life in Syria, the things that you like to have around you that make you feel at home, and your day-to-day interactions with the people around you.
- In addition, the researcher may take notes and make observations on daily life and social interactions in the area in which you live
- If you give us your permission we will make an audio recording of the interview to ensure that we don't lose any of the information you give us. If you don't want to be recorded, but would still like to do the interview, we will take written notes only.
- We will not write down your name or any other personal information. We will ensure that you are not identifiable by the information you give us when we write up the reports.
- Even if you decide to take part, you are still free to stop your participation at any point during the interview with no need to give a reason.
- After the interview, you can ask to have any of your data deleted and removed from the research findings until 30 November 2017.

3. *What are the possible benefits of taking part?*

- Since we are university researchers there will not be any direct material benefits to being involved.
- However, we will write up the research findings into a report that we circulate to local and international NGOS. Therefore, by taking part in the research you will help shape local and international NGO decision-making and help to make any activities more appropriate to the needs of the beneficiaries.
- We will organise a social event in January where we will say thank you for your time and collaboration. We're also able to offer some training to the community. We will speak with participants about what might be most beneficial or enjoyable.

4. *What are the possible risks of taking part?*

- There are no foreseeable risks in participating in the study.
- Some of the topics we ask about might lead you to recall difficult memories. We can change topic or stop the interview at any time.
- We will take an hour or two of your time, but we hope that the interview process will be enjoyable.

5. *Why have I been invited to take part?*

- You have been invited to take part because you have been displaced from your home.
- We are inviting men and women household heads between the ages of 25 and 50, both those with children and without children from Palestinian Syrian, Syrian and non-displaced Lebanese communities.
- You have been approached because you fit one of these criteria and because you were known to the staff of the [local NGO].

6. *Do I have to take part?*

- Participation is voluntary –you do not have to take part.

7. *Will my taking part be kept confidential?*

- What is said in the interview is regarded as strictly confidential and will be held securely until the research is finished. All data for analysis will be anonymised. At all times there will be no possibility of you as an individual being linked with the data.
- The anonymised transcripts will be made publicly available to download online so that future researchers can make use of the information you provide. Please let us know if you would prefer your interview transcript not be made available to the public and other researchers.
- The UK Data Protection Act 1998 will apply to all information gathered within the interviews and held on password-locked computer files and locked cabinets within King's College London. No data will be able to be linked back to any individual taking part in the interview.

8. *How is the project being funded?*

- The project is being funded the British Academy in the UK (www.britac.ac.uk).

9. *What will happen to the results of the study?*

- We will produce a final report summarising the main findings in Arabic and English that can be sent to you in December 2017. This report will also be sent to local and international NGOs.
- We will create a comic book telling the stories we collected and circulate this to the public in the UK, Lebanon and internationally and we can provide copies to you in January, 2018.
- The research findings will also be publicised in academic journals, and conferences within the UK and internationally.

10. *Who should I contact for further information?*

- If you have any questions or require more information about this study, please contact me using details below, or alternatively you can contact [local NGO representative] who will pass a message to me.
- Dr Helen Adams, Department of Geography, King's College London, WC2R 2LS, UK; Email: helen.j.adams@kcl.ac.uk; Tel: +44 207 848 1755

11. *What if something goes wrong?*

- If this study has harmed you in any way or if you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the study you can contact the ethics group at King's College London using the details below or alternatively you can contact [local NGO representative] who will pass a message to the research ethics group at KCL.
- Research Ethics Subcommittee Chair, Social Science and Public Policy, Humanities and Law, King's College London, SE1 9NH, UK; Email: rec@kcl.ac.uk

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