

**Participant Information Sheet (PIS)**

**Study title:**

Bringing Women’s Voices Back In: Gender and Oil Conflict in the Niger Delta.

**Brief summary of research project:**

This research project seeks to amplify the voices of women and their conflict related experiences in the Niger Delta.

*I would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Before you decide, you need to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Ask questions if anything you read is not clear or would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not to take part.*

*Women in the Niger Delta have played a key role in organising important protests Ogoni and Ijaw women, for example, have experienced, first-hand, the violent reprisals instigated by the Nigerian security forces along with Shell multinational as counterparts. The roles played by women to address oil-related environmental issues need to be brought at the fore of discussions on development in the Niger Delta, suggesting that the gendered implications for women, of the global and national governance agendas vis-à-vis the oil producing areas of Nigeria, clearly requires additional disclosure. The perspectives of women are under-researched, and have been consistently overlooked in the literature on resources-based conflicts in the Niger Delta, which begs to be addressed.*

*Participatory video here will be used as a documentation tool and a means of documenting local women’s experiences, needs and hopes from their own perspectives. It will be used to capture an ‘insider view’ in a lively way that is accessible to diverse audiences. Owing to its oral and visual manner of engagement, participatory video can provide a platform for marginalised and/or oral-based groups and communities to determine in their own sense what is essential, and how they wish this to be represented. By giving a voice to the women, participatory video can actually develop capacity to stimulate action, and can serve as a medium for conveying and influencing decision making at various levels. In addition to the use of participatory video, these initial interactions with the women will help me in critically determining how, and to what extent the current methodologies I used in my research are applicable to engagement with women.*

***The purpose of this research***

The purpose of this project is to bring back women’s voices in the discourse on the Niger Delta conflicts. It is to ask women to talk about their conflict related experiences. The aim is to collect first-hand accounts of women’s conflict experiences and discuss perceptions and reflections about women in these situations.

***Why have I been invited?***

You have been selected for this study because you have lived through the conflicts in the Niger Delta and your unique experiences may have some interesting insights about understanding the Niger Delta issues from a woman’s perspective.

**Do I have to take part**?

Participation is completely voluntary. During the one-day workshop and briefing sessions you will be made aware that, you are free to drop out of the project at any time up until the final version of the video documentary is cut.

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

You will be recorded and interviewed (once or more, if agreed).

In order to undertake the research project, I would like to collect information/data about your experience in relation to the conflicts and your life story. As the discussion progresses, I will ask you to discuss specific aspects of the conflict that you have encountered. The interview will be undertaken and recorded using video cameras, and an audio recorder. Photographs will also be taken as part of the project. This information will be used for research purposes and activities related to the research only. Any personal information I collect will be kept secure in accordance with the Data Protection Act (General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)).

I take full responsibility for the protection of personal information that this study is collecting about you. In order to comply with the legal obligations to protect your personal data safeguards have been put in place to look after it.

I will retain information for a minimum of 10 years after the end of the fellowship. I will be the only person to access the data and contact details. The data will be stored in an encrypted external hard drive and on the University of Bath as well as the ESRC archives only accessible by permission.

You have a number of rights under data protection law regarding personal information. For example, you can request a copy of the information I hold about you, including audio recordings. This is known as a Subject Access Request. If you would like to know more about your different rights, you could consult our privacy notice for research on the University of Bath website (https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/university-of-bath-privacy-notice/) and can contact me about your data protection rights, please email: z.mai-bornu@bath.ac.uk.

**Expenses and payments?**

There is no money in the budge to pay participants. However, as a gift for your participation, meals and transport will be provided.

**What will participants have to do?**

Consent to an interview and video recordings by me.

These will normally take anything between 1 hour to two but this can vary.

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

The information gathered will remain very general about Niger Delta women’s conflict related experiences. It is learning more about the conflicts from your own perspectives using your voices. However, it is likely that some women may find the nature of the discussion distressing and may become emotional. If this occurs, I will mitigate these risks by stopping the recordings and giving you the opportunity to rest, or stop the interview.

**Will my participation involve any discomfort or embarrassment?**

I do not expect you to feel any discomfort or embarrassment if you take part in this research. The video recordings will be participatory, we will do this together and you will decide what you want to be included and what not to be included. We will have a one-day training session during which you will be trained on how to use the video cameras. If however you do feel uncomfortable or appear upset at any time, I will stop the interview and recording straight away. I will also direct you to an appropriate person (e.g. Women leader) if you wish to talk more about it.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part? Help society.**

I cannot promise the study will help you but it is hoped that the information I get from the study will help to increase the understanding of the gendered aspects of the Niger Delta Conflicts. This will serve as a tool aimed at eliciting discussions and debate on relevant and strategic requirements, necessary for addressing the conflicts in the region.

**What if there is a problem?**

If you have concerns about any aspect of this study, you should speak to me in confidence and I will do my best to answer your questions and address your concerns (email: z.mai-bornu@bath.ac.uk)

**Formal Complaints**

If you wish to make a formal complaint or if you are not satisfied with the response you have gained from me in the first instance then please contact the Chair of the University of Bath Social Science Research Ethics Committee, Professor Rachel Forrester-Jones, email: ssrec@bath.ac.uk.

**Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?**

I will safeguard all data collected. I will handle, process, store and destroy of their data according to the UK Data Protection Act.

* All data collected will be anonymised.
* All interviews will be stored on a password-protected computer, flash disk, external hard drive, and encrypted on University of Bath and ESRC archives.
* I will use the data to research the Ogoni and Ijaw oil related conflict related experiences. This anonymised information will also be used for future studies.
* I will be the only person to access the identifiable data.
* I will retain all data for a minimum of 10 years.

All personal information, which is collected, about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential, and any information about you will have your name removed so that you cannot be recognised. The documentary which will be made public will be subject to individual consent.

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

I will seek to publish the results of this research in a 30-minute video, in journal articles and in different artistic outputs such as conferences.

**Who is organising or sponsoring the research?**

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), United Kingdom.

**Who has reviewed the project?**

This part of the project has been given a favourable ethical opinion by the University of Bath, Research Ethics Approval Committee for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences [reference:] and the ESRC.

**Further information and contact details:**

You can contact me directly via email and phone:

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