**Friendship, violence and legal consciousness in the context of joint enterprise**

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**Who are we?**

We are experienced researchers who work at Cambridge University (Institute of Criminology) and Kent University. We do not work for the police or Prison Service. The study is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, which funds research on economic and social issues.

**Why are we doing this study?**

We are interested in finding out more about young people’s relationships, experiences of violence and understandings of the law, as well how police officers and lawyers apply the law in ‘joint enterprise’ cases. Your interview will help us to understand how young people’s knowledge of the law is affected by direct experience. We think that our study will help people who work in the Criminal Justice System, other researchers and young people to better understand ‘joint enterprise’.

**What will participation involve?**

You will be asked to take part in an interview with one of the research team, which may take place over more than one session. During the interview you will be asked about your relationships with family and friends, your understandings of the law and your experience of being convicted of serious violence with others. You are not expected to know anything in particular, we are just trying to understand the experiences of people convicted using ‘joint enterprise’.

We may also ask to access your case file, to help us to understand the basis of your conviction (to check that it is what many people call a ‘joint enterprise’ case, because this is the focus of the study).

**Do I have to take part in the study?**

No. Your participation is completely voluntary. If you do not want to take part, you do not have to, and this will not disadvantage you in any way.

**Are there any risks involved in taking part?**

Some questions about your experiences might trigger some unhappy thoughts. *You do not have to answer questions you do not wish to and you can also stop the interview at any time.* We can discuss anything you may have found difficult at the end and we can suggest who else you can talk to.

**Are there any benefits in taking part?**

There are no advantages or disadvantages to you deciding to take part or not take part in the research. We are unable to offer any reward for taking part. However, people who we have interviewed in the past have liked speaking to someone neutral, who listens to them, and have been pleased to contribute to research, which can impact on practice and policy.

**Will my contribution remain anonymous?**

If you agree to the researchers using quotes from the interviews, this will be done in such a way that you cannot be identified. We will give you a different name and will change any details about your life which would ‘give away’ who you are.

**Will what I say be kept confidential?**

The information you share in the interview will almost always be kept completely confidential. However, the researcher will be obliged to pass on to the Governor any information regarding:

* any illegal acts that you admit to that you are planning or that you have not yet been convicted for;
* any breach of prison rules that can be adjudicated against, which occurs during the interview;
* a breach of prison security or information that raises concerns about terrorism or radicalisation; and
* behaviour that is potentially harmful to yourself – intention of self-harm or complete suicide – or others.

Your interview will be stored securely for an indefinite period. Only the research team and the person who turns the recording of your interview into a typed file can listen to your interview.

**How do I agree to take part in the study?**

If you agree to take part, you will be asked to complete a consent form. This shows that you have understood the study and have had a chance to discuss any questions with the researcher. We would like to record the interview with a voice recorder. In the consent form, you will also be asked to say whether you are happy for the interview to be recorded.

**What if I want to withdraw from the study?**

You are free to stop the interview or refuse to take part at any stage, without having to explain why you want to stop. Up until 31st December 2018 (when we will start writing up the research findings), you can also ask that we do not use your interview in the study, without having to explain why. If you do this, we will destroy your interview recording and any associated material - making this decision will not be held against you or disadvantage you.

**Where can I go for support should participation in the research cause me anxiety or distress?**

If some of the things you have discussed in your interview have made you to feel anxious or distressed, there are a number of ways that you can access support, by talking to your personal officer, a Listener or the Samaritans (by phone - the number will be advertised on your wing). Within the prison \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can also be contacted should you need further support.

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

Your interview will help us build up an understanding of the issues. We will explain the results from the study in articles read by young people, prisoners, practitioners and academics. The findings will also be discussed in presentations to people who work in the Criminal Justice System and other universities. This will be done in such a way that you could not be identified. We would also like to feedback the findings of the study to you, as a participant, if possible. This would mean we would need to contact you in the future, by letter or in person when we return to the prison. The consent form will ask if you are happy for us to contact you in this way.

**What if I want more information about the study, or want to complain about some aspect of it?**

The study has been reviewed by the Ethics Committee of the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge. Please direct any questions or complaints through your establishment, who will pass the information onto the research team.

**Thank you for your time in reading this information. If you have any further questions at any stage of the research, please do not hesitate to ask one of us.**