**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 the Institute of Criminology, Cambridge University, and Kent University. We do not work for the government, police or the Prison Service. The research is funded by an organisation called the Economic and Social Research Council - the UK’s largest organisation for funding research on economic and social issues.

**Why are we doing this study?**

The research aims to contribute to the debate on ‘joint enterprise’ as a legal response to serious group violence involving young people, to inform policy and practice, and to educate young people. We are interested in finding out more about young people’s relationships, experiences of violence and understandings of the law, as well as police officers and lawyers’ understandings of young people’s involvement in violence and their experiences of working on cases of serious violence involving multiple young people.

**What will participation involve?**

You will be asked to take part in an interview with one of the research team, which may take place in more than one session. During the interview, you will be asked questions about your understandings of young people’s social relationships, their involvement in violence, and the work you undertake when you are involved in cases of serious violence involving multiple young people. We are not testing your knowledge, we are simply trying understand the way in which ‘joint enterprise’ is applied in practice.

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

No. Your participation is entirely 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?**

You will be asked to discuss your knowledge and experiences. Some questions might lead you to reflect on previous experiences. *You do not have to answer any questions you do not wish to and you can stop the interview at any time.* There will be time at the end to discuss anything you may have found difficult and we can suggest someone else you can talk to if you would like to.

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

You may find talking about your experiences useful and enjoyable. People who we have interviewed in the past have valued speaking to someone neutral. You will also be contributing to our understanding of the law and the way in which it is applied in practice.

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

Only the research team and the person who transcribes your interview can listen to it. A written transcript of your interview will be stored securely for an indefinite period. The information you share in the interview will almost always be kept completely confidential. The researcher will be obliged to inform a third party (for example, your manager and/or the police) if you admit to any offence that you have not yet been convicted for and if you imply a threat to yourself or to others.

**Will my contribution remain anonymous?**

If you agree to quotes from the interviews being used, 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 which could identify you.

**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. 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. 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, again 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 discuss in your interview make you to feel anxious or distressed, there are a number of ways that you can access support:

* You can contact Law Care, a charity that supports the wellbeing of individuals within the legal community, by phone on [0800 279 6888](tel:08002796888)(see <https://www.lawcare.org.uk/>);or
* You can contact the Samaritans, by phone on 116 123 or by email: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org).

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

Your interview will help us build up an understanding of secondary liability and its application in practice. The results will be published in publications for young people, prisoners and practitioners, as well as academic journals and books. The findings may also be discussed articles written by the researchers, and in discussions or presentations with people who work in the Criminal Justice System, as well as other university researchers. Again, this would be done in such a way that you could not be personally identified.

**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. If you would like more information or have any questions or complaints about the research please feel free to speak to us directly, email us (sh563@cam.ac.uk) or write to us at: The Institute of Criminology, Cambridge University, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, CB3 9DA

**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.**