



Participant Information Sheet

Transnational practices in local settings: Experiences of citizenship among Bangladesh-origin Muslims in London and Birmingham

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**Introduction**

You are invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide you need to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve for you. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and ask questions about anything you do not understand. Talk to others about the study if you wish.

# **What is the project about?**

This project considers the citizenship experiences of Bangladesh-origin Muslims in London and Birmingham. It investigates local experiences of citizenship in relation to:

a) Different histories of migration and settlement in the UK,

b) Different population profiles in terms of the size of the Bangladesh-origin population, age, gender, social background, length of residence in the UK, and the proportion of people who have acquired ‘formal citizenship’, as well as,

c) The different social and political environments of the two cities in terms of the presence of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and community organisations and the political affiliation of local councils and elected officials.

The project will also examine how these local experiences of citizenship influence transnational experiences of citizenship in Bangladesh. In doing so it will consider whether relations with Bangladesh foster inclusion and belonging in London and Birmingham (through the creation of broader social networks and community solidarity) or lead to feelings of exclusion in these cities (as a result of, for example, suspicion on the part of government agencies).

The project will depart from previous research in two key respects. First, research in this area has not sufficiently taken account of diversity within migrant or minority populations and this project will consider how citizenship is experienced differently according to gender, generation and class. Second, it will move beyond characterisations of citizenship based on legal status to consider the rights and privileges that legal status may or may not make possible. This includes examination of access to education, employment, housing, healthcare and local political processes. The findings could potentially influence current policy and civil society service provision in relation to local experiences of citizenship, in order to improve support for migrant populations more generally.

**Why have I been invited to take part in the study?**

You have been invited to take part in the study because you are a Bangladesh-origin Muslim living in Tower Hamlets or Aston.

**How will the research be carried out?**

In each location, in-depth semi-structured interviews will be conducted with 2 members of 15 Bengali families. The aim of the interviews will be to better understand experiences of citizenship in relation not only to the accessibility of formal citizenship status, but also experiences of housing, education, healthcare and employment. It will also facilitate a better understanding of the way in which social positions of gender, generation and class can represent a barrier to full and effective citizenship in both field sites. The 2 participants will either be a father and a son or a mother and a daughter. This will help draw out generational dimensions and improve understanding of continuity and change over time. In addition, 5 oral history interviews and 5 civil society interviews will be conducted in each location. Semi-structured interviews are expected to last approximately 60-90 minutes. Oral history interviews are expected to last approximately 90-100. Civil society interviews are expected to last 60 minutes. All interviews will be audio recorded, unless you opt out of audio recording, which you can do at any time without any negative consequences. If you opt out of audio-recording, notes will be taken during the interview instead.

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

There are no direct benefits in taking part in this study. However, by sharing your views and experience, your contribution to this study will enable a better understanding of Bangladeshi Muslims experiences of citizenship in the UK. When the study is complete participants are welcome to request access to all published material by contacting the lead researcher (contact details below).

**Will my participation be confidential?**

Yes, your participation will be entirely confidential. All research data will be stored securely. All transcripts of interviews/discussions will be anonymized. This means that your own name, as well as the names of people/places you mention will be changed to protect your privacy.

In certain exceptional circumstances where you or others may be at significant risk of harm, the researcher may need to report this to an appropriate authority. This would usually be discussed with you first. Examples of those exceptional circumstances when confidential information may have to be disclosed are:

* The researcher believes you are at serious risk of harm, either from yourself or others
* The researcher suspects a child may be at risk of harm
* You pose a serious risk of harm to, or threaten or abuse others
* As a statutory requirement e.g. reporting certain infectious diseases
* Under a court order requiring the University to divulge information
* We are passed information relating to an act of terrorism.

**What happens if I change my mind?**

You are taking part in this study on a completely voluntary basis and can withdraw your consent at any time with no negative consequences to you. You can request for your data to be withdrawn at any time prior to the publication of such data (approximately January 2017). If you withdraw from the study all identifiable data collected would be withdrawn from the study. This also applies if one person in a dyad interview wants to withdraw and the other does not. If this occurs during the interview, the interview will continue as a single semi-structured interview, and data relating to the withdrawn participant will be withdrawn from the study. If this occurs after the interview, all data relating to the participant who has withdrawn will be withdrawn from the study.

**What will my involvement require?**

If, having read this information sheet in full, you agree to take part, we will then ask you to give verbal consent. If you do decide to take part, you will also be given the research team’s contact information should you decide to withdraw at a later stage. Your involvement would only be for one interview (approximately 60-90 minutes long if semi-structured, and approximately 90-100 minutes long if oral history) and we will only contact you after this time to invite you to attend the project’s closing workshops as our guest if you are interested (this will be completely voluntary – consent to participate in an interview does not equate to consent to attend a workshop).

Participants will be reimbursed for their interview time through a £14 Sainsbury’s voucher [this will be added here if it is confirmed by the funder]

**What will happen to the data that I provide?**

Data will not be shared outside the research team unless it has been anonymized (all data disseminated more widely in academic publications and presentations or archived for the ESRC will be anonymized). Personal data will be stored securely in accordance with the UK Data Protection Act 1998 so that unauthorized individuals will not have access to them. Research data will be retained for at least 10 years following their last access and project data (related to the administration of the project) for at least 6 years in line with the University of Surrey policies. After this time, all data which has not been anonymized and indexed for archiving will be safely destroyed.

**Does my participation carry any risks?**

There are no risks to taking part in the study. If, however, you wish to complain, or have any concerns about any aspect of the way you have been treated during the course of this study, you should follow the instructions given below.

**Who is organizing and funding the research?**

This research is organized by the University of Surrey and funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

**Who has reviewed the project?**

This research has been looked at by an independent group of people, called an Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. This study has been reviewed by the University of Surrey Ethics Committee.

**Who can I contact if there has been a problem?**

If you are at all concerned about anything to do with this study you can contact either the Principle Investigator Dr Victoria Redclift, Lecturer in Sociology, Department of Sociology, University of Surrey ([v.redclift@surrey.ac.uk/](mailto:v.redclift@surrey.ac.uk/) 01483 686976) or Professor Sara Arber, Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, University of Surrey ([s.arber@surrey.ac.uk/](mailto:s.arber@surrey.ac.uk/) 01483 686973).

**Where can I get more information?**

If you would like additional information on anything to do with this study or your participation in it, please feel free to contact the Principle Investigator ([v.redclift@surrey.ac.uk)](mailto:v.redclift@surrey.ac.uk)). You can also contact the Post-Doctoral Research Assistant on the project Fatima Begum Rajina ([f.b.rajina@surrey.ac.uk)](mailto:f.b.rajina@surrey.ac.uk)).

**Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.**