INFORMATION SHEET

**The impact of elections:**

**Voting, political behaviour and democracy in sub-Saharan Africa**

We are giving you this sheet because we would like you to take part in our study of electoral history and voting. Before you decide to participate you should read this, or ask someone to read it to you. When we come to talk to you, please do ask us any further questions you may have, or ask us to explain if anything is still unclear.

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

The project is a study of elections in three countries – Ghana, Kenya and Uganda – since the 1950s. We are hoping that the project will tell us what people’s experience of elections has been, and how this has affected their attitudes towards politics.

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

The research is being undertaken by academics from three universities in the United Kingdom: Durham, Oxford and Warwick. These three researchers are Justin Willis, Gabrielle Lynch and Nic Cheeseman. The research is supported by an academic research organization in the UK, the Economic and Social Research Council.

**Why have I been asked to take part?**

The researchers are talking to all kinds of people who have been involved in elections; around 100 people in each country involved in the study. These include election officials, political party activists, candidates, and ordinary voters. We believe that you will have interesting and important memories to share about your involvement in elections, and we are hoping that you will be willing to participate so that we can learn from these memories.

**Do I have to take part?**

We hope that you will take part, but you are under no obligation to do so. If you do agree to take part, we will ask you to sign a consent form – or to give a recorded consent, if you are unable to sign the form.

**What happens to the interviews?**

The interviews will be transcribed – that is, we will write out what is said in each interview, word for word, in whichever language the interview is conducted. We will send you a copy of this. The sound recording of the interview, and a copy of the transcript, will be preserved by Durham University, and a copy of the transcript will be preserved by the Economic and Social Research Council. If you give consent for this, these will be available to future researchers and others who are interested in this history.

**Who will know what I have said?**

This is up to you. If you give consent, the sound recording and the transcript will be stored with your name, so that anyone who listens to or reads them will know whose words they are. However, if you do not wish people to know what you have said, the recording will not be publicly available and the transcript will be stored anonymously so that people do not know whose words they are. We will edit the transcript to make sure that people cannot guess who you are by reading it.

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

The results of the study will be published as a book and academic articles; we will also write a report at the end of the study that summarises the findings of the work in all three countries. If you give us an address we will send you a copy of this report, either on paper or as an email attachment.

**Contact for information in future**

The main contact for the project is Justin Willis: Justin.Willis@durham.ac.uk

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