

Participant No.

**LIFE ON THE BREADLINE:  
CHRISTIANITY, POVERTY AND POLITICS IN THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY CITY**

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

This project focuses on Christian action on poverty in the UK and is led by Dr Chris Shannahan from Coventry University. We hope that you will want to take part in the project, but would like you to read a bit more about it before you decide.

**What is the project about?**

The purpose of the study is to explore the impact that the 'age of austerity' has had on poverty in the UK and to understand how this has affected Christian activism. The project will explore different examples of Christian action on poverty in order to understand the impact that they have on individuals, families and communities. The project is intended to enable the development of better informed government policy and more effective faith-based activism, which will result in a reduction of poverty in the UK.

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

You have been invited to participate in this project because of your experience of the issues we are exploring and/or because of your involvement in Christian initiatives that are responding to the growth of poverty in the UK.

**What are the benefits of taking part?**

By sharing your experiences with us, you will be helping us to better understand the impact that the 'age of austerity' has had on communities in the UK and on Christian activism on poverty. The project will also provide resources and training that will strengthen the work of anti-poverty projects in local communities and nationally.

**Are there any risks associated with taking part?**

This study has been reviewed and approved through Coventry University's ethics procedure. There are no significant risks associated with participation.

**Do I have to take part?**

No – it is entirely up to you. If you do decide to take part, please keep this Information Sheet and give your verbal consent at the start of the interview to show that you are happy to participate. Please note down your participant number and provide this to the lead researcher if you seek to withdraw from the study at a later date. Anonymised quotations from the interview may be used in research outputs (e.g. journal articles, international conference papers and reports), unless you have said you are happy for your real name to be used. Please let us know by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 if you would like to withdraw from the project by getting in touch with the project lead, Chris Shannahan (contact details are below). You don't need to give a reason and if you decide to withdraw, or not to take part, this will not affect you in any way.

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

During the interview you will be asked questions about a) your perceptions of the state of UK poverty and austerity, b) your reflections on the impact of poverty and austerity in the UK, and c) how your Church/group has responded to UK poverty. Ideally, we would like to audio record your responses, and will ask your permission to do this. The interview will last for no more than 60 minutes.

**Data Protection and Confidentiality**

All information collected about you will be kept strictly confidential. To preserve anonymity your data will be referred to by a unique participant number rather than by name, unless you have said you are happy for us to use your real name. If you have agreed to being audio recorded, all recordings will be destroyed once they have been transcribed. Your data will only be viewed by the research team. With your consent it may, in an anonymised form, be used within journal articles, reports or international conferences, unless you have given us permission to use your real name. All electronic data will be stored on a password protected project SharePoint site on a password protected Coventry University computer. All paper records will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations in its secure building at Coventry University. Your consent information will be kept separately from your responses to minimise risk in the event of a data breach. The lead researcher, Chris Shannahan, will take responsibility for data destruction and all collected data will be destroyed on or before [31/08/2031].

**International Data Transfers**

The data you provide will not be subject to international transfer, although anonymised quotations from your interview or focus group may be used in presentations at international conferences, with your consent.

**What will happen with the results of this study?**

The results of this study may be summarised in published articles, reports and presentations. Quotes or key findings will always be made anonymous in any formal outputs unless we have your prior and explicit written permission to attribute them to you by name.

**Making a Complaint**

If you are unhappy with any aspect of this research, please first contact the lead researcher, [Dr Chris Shannahan – email: [ac0971@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:ac0971@coventry.ac.uk); phone +44 (0) 24 7765 5754]. If you still have concerns and wish to make a formal complaint, please write to Dr David McIlhatton, Co-Director of the Centre for Trust, Peace & Social Relations, Tel +44 (0)24 7765 1182; Email [ac1376@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:ac1376@coventry.ac.uk). In your letter please provide information about the research project, specify the name of the researcher and detail the nature of your complaint.

**Thank you for your time in being involved in the Life on the Breadline research**