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**Creating new housing responses for migrant women in Smethwick (the Empowering Cities of Migration project) - Project information sheet**

Would you be interested in talking about what it is like to live in Smethwick and your housing experiences?

We are a project team (Keele University, Birmingham University and Brushstrokes - a community organisation focused on supporting migrants and refugees in the west of Birmingham) and we’re looking to have some informal conversations with migrant women who live in Smethwick.

**Name and Contact Details of lead researchers:**

* Simon Pemberton ([s.pemberton@keele.ac.uk](mailto:s.pemberton@keele.ac.uk))
* Lisa Goodson ([L.J.Goodson@bham.ac.uk](mailto:L.J.Goodson@bham.ac.uk))
* Dave Newall ([david@brushstrokessandwell.org.uk](mailto:david@brushstrokessandwell.org.uk)).

Our project is looking to work with migrant women and housing, migration and planning organisations on creating new housing responses which help to avoid exclusion in places such as Smethwick, with the help of a number of community researchers (names to be inserted).

If you are interested in taking part an interview which discusses your housing experiences and what it is like to live in Smethwick, please look over the information below. Do ask us if there is anything that is unclear or if you would like more details.

**Research Summary**

The research explores the neighbourhood and housing experiences of migrant women in Smethwick and how they can work with others to help create new housing responses.

**Why have I been invited?**

You have been invited because you are a migrant woman currently living in Smethwick.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, taking part in this research is entirely voluntary. It is up to you to decide if you want to volunteer for the research. If you agree to take part, you will be sent a consent form and you will be asked to send an email/message confirming that you consent. Consent will also be re-confirmed verbally at the start of the interview.

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

You will be asked by a Community Researcher - who you will have met when you were initially invited to participate in the research - to discuss your housing experiences as well as what it is like to live in Smethwick day-to-day. This will take the form of an informal chat with the Community Researcher, which will be done either face-to-face, online or over the phone (COVID-19 regulations permitting). We expect that you will chat for around 1 hour to 1 hour 30 minutes, at a time that suits you. The conversation will be audio recorded. You have the right to have another person present to

**What are the possible advantages or benefits (if any) of taking part?**

We hope to understand the views and housing and neighbourhood experiences of migrant women living in Smethwick. Understanding these experiences is important in helping to create new housing responses that help to avoid people becoming excluded.

You will also receive a £10 voucher for participating.

**What are the possible disadvantages or risks (if any) of taking part?**

We don’t anticipate any risks in taking part in the interview, however you can stop the interview at any point without giving a reason. In addition, if you would prefer to be interviewed by a different CR on the basis of gender then we will seek to accommodate such requests where possible.

Those individuals who may require support if they feel vulnerable may also wish to contact some of the specialist support organisations set out below:

**Local support services:**

**West Midlands Police Domestic Abuse support**  
<https://www.west-midlands.police.uk/your-options/domestic-abuse>

**Birmingham and Solihull Women’s Aid Domestic Abuse Helpline**  
0808 800 0028  
[www.bswaid.org](http://www.bswaid.org/)

**Birmingham LGBT Domestic Abuse Service**  
0121 643 0821  
[www.blgbt.org](http://www.blgbt.org)

**[Bharosa Domestic Abuse Service](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20095/antisocial_behaviour_and_neighbour_disputes/1370/bharosa_domestic_abuse_service)** – specialist support for women particularly those from a South Asian background.  
0121 303 0368/0369  
Email:bharosa@birmingham.gov.uk

**Nationwide support services:**

**English National Domestic Violence Helpline**  
0808 2000 247  
[www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk/)  
For Help Text 'NCDV' to 60777

**Disrespect Nobody**  
[www.disrespectnobody.co.uk/](https://www.disrespectnobody.co.uk/)

**Galop (for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people)**

0800 999 5428

[www.galop.org.uk](http://www.galop.org.uk)

**How will my information be used?**

A transcript of our conversation will be made, but all personal information will be changed or removed. Each participant will be given a pseudonym (i.e. a fake name) that is known only by the researchers. Analysis of the data will identify the main themes that emerge from the conversation. Where appropriate, quotes will be used to illustrate these findings in the project’s written report and any publications.

**Who will have access to my information?**

The data collected will be made available to members of the research team – Professor Simon Pemberton from the School of Geography, Geology and the Environment at Keele University, Dr. Lisa Goodson from the Institute for Research into Superdiversity at the University of Birmingham and Mr. Dave Newall, Chief Executive of ‘Brushstrokes’ - a community organisation whose work is focused on supporting migrant and refugee communities in the West of Birmingham.

Any personal information will be removed or changed. These transcripts will be stored securely on a password-protected computer.

Recordings of interviews will be kept for 2 years. The transcripts and any other data generated from the interviews will be stored and archived for a minimum of 10 years after the research has been completed.

We do however have to work within the confines of current legislation over such matters as privacy and confidentiality, data protection and human rights and so offers of confidentiality may sometimes be overridden by law. For example, in circumstances whereby we are concerned over any actual or potential harm to yourself or others we must pass this information to the relevant authorities.

**What will happen if I don’t want to carry on with the study?**

You are free to withdraw your contribution to the study during the interview and up to 1 month after the interview by contacting any of the project team.

**What if there is a problem?**

If you have a query, concern or complaint about any aspect of this study, in the first instance you should contact Professor Simon Pemberton ([s.pemberton@keele.ac.uk](mailto:s.pemberton@keele.ac.uk)). Alternatively, if you do not wish to contact the researcher you may contact the approving Research Ethics Committee Chair:

Dr Sandra Woolley - Natural Sciences Research Ethics Committee Chair

Email address: [naturalsciences.ethics@keele.ac.uk](mailto:naturalsciences.ethics@keele.ac.uk)

**Who is funding the research?**

The research is being funded in the UK through the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). None of the researchers or study staff will receive any financial reward by conducting this study, other than their normal salary/pay.

**Thank you**

Thank you for taking time to read this information sheet and for considering volunteering for this research. If you do agree to participate your consent will be sought; please see the accompanying consent form.

**REC Reference Number:** (added after review)