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What is included in this pack?

1. **Information sheet (p. 1-3)**

This gives you all the information about the study, why we want to hear from you and how you can take part.

1. **Consent Form (p. 4-5)**

The consent form gives you options so you can decide how you want us to use your information in our research.

1. **Questions (p. 6)**

These are the questions that we are inviting you to answer. These are just a guide, and you are also welcome to write about other aspects of your experiences if you want to.

1. **Demographic information form (p. 78)**

This form asks some questions about you and the person who the inquest or investigation was for. We ask for this information so we can make sure that we are getting a range of different people’s experiences of the inquest process.

***Please return the consent form, your answers and the demographic information form to Lorna Templeton at the University of Bath (***[***hsslt@bath.ac.uk***](mailto:hsslt@bath.ac.uk)***) or Alex Murray at Birkbeck (***[***alex.murray@bbk.ac.uk***](mailto:alex.murray@bbk.ac.uk)***).***

***If submitting by post, please send to: Alex Murray, ICPR, Birkbeck, 42 Store St, London. WC1E 7DB.***

# Voicing Loss:

# A study of Bereaved People’s Experiences of Inquests

# Participant Information Pack

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Description automatically generated**Voicing Loss: A study of bereaved people’s experiences of inquests**

**Participant information sheet, consent form & questions**

We are inviting you to take part in the *Voicing Loss* research project. This information sheet tells you about the research. Please take some time to read it carefully and think about taking part. The research team will be happy to discuss this with you and answer any questions you might have before you decide about whether or not to participate.

**Who is carrying out the research?**

This is an independent study is being carried out by a team of researchers from Birkbeck, University of London and the University of Bath. The researchers are: Professor Jessica Jacobson, Dr Penny Cooper, Dr Camillia Kong, Alex Murray, Dr Hannah Rumble, and Lorna Templeton. The study is running over 32 months and is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), a government body that supports social research.

The study has been approved by Birkbeck’s College Ethics Committee (ref. 10.1.22) and the University of Bath’s Social Science Research Ethics Committee (ref. S22-018).

**Why have I been invited to take part and what is the purpose of the study?**

You have been invited to take part because you have had experience of a coroner’s investigation and/or an inquest into the death of a family member, partner or friend. The study aims to explore and understand bereaved people’s experiences of inquests and the coronial process – including which aspects of the process are particularly difficult or challenging for bereaved people, and which aspects may be more helpful. This is an important area of policy and practice, but there has been almost no research done on this topic in the UK. We will be collecting data from both bereaved people and a range of professionals.

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

No: whether you take part in the study is entirely your decision. If you decide to take part, you can change your mind and withdraw from the study (without giving a reason) by 31 March 2023. Any decision that you make about taking part in the study, or stopping your involvement, will not affect any help you are receiving from services.

**What does taking part involve?**

Taking part in the research involves sending a written account of your experiences. If you agree to take part, you will be asked to sign and return the consent form to say that you understand what this involves. In this information pack there are questions that we would like you to think about and answer, related to your experience of a coroner’s investigation or inquest into the death of a family member, partner, or friend. Your answers can be as long or as short as you wish. Once you have written up your account, these can be returned to us along with the consent and demographic information forms by email to: Lorna Templeton at the University of Bath ([hsslt@bath.ac.uk](mailto:hsslt@bath.ac.uk)) or Alex Murray at Birkbeck ([alex.murray@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:alex.murray@bbk.ac.uk)). If you wish to submit your account by post, please send the account and forms to Alex Murray, ICPR, Birkbeck, 42 Store St, London. WC1E 7DB.

**What are the benefits of taking part? What might be difficult about taking part?**

We hope that you will find it helpful to tell us about your experiences. We also hope that, through our research, we will identify ways in which policy and practice relating to inquests should be improved.

Writing your account may involve thinking about very personal and sensitive issues, so this may be difficult for you. You can do this at your own pace and decide what you write about in your account. There are a set of questions, but these are just a guide – you are also welcome to write about other aspects of your experiences if you want to. Please feel free to contact a member of the research team for further guidance (details given in this form), and we can help you to access a relevant support service if needed.

**Will my participation in the research be confidential?**

Yes: we will not tell anyone that you have taken part in the study, and your personal data will be kept confidential. Information will be shared between members of the research team, but any information that is shared more widely will be fully anonymised. We will not include your name or any other details that could identify you in any reports on the research.

The only time when we might have to pass on confidential information is if there is anything in your written account that raises concerns about a possible risk of serious harm to yourself or anyone else. If this situation arises, we will have a duty to report it to the relevant authorities and will discuss this with you.

On the consent form we ask for your permission to contact you about any opportunities to get involved in other parts of the study (for example, discussions about policy and practice) or to respond to possible media enquiries. On the other hand, you can let us know if you would prefer not to be contacted again.

The research team will fully anonymise your written account, meaning that all names and other details that could identify you or any other individual will be removed or amended. The original written account that you send will be deleted once this has taken place.

**What will happen to my data?**

Your name and contact details will not be shared with anyone outside the research team and will be handled in accordance with data protection regulations. This information will be securely held in a SharePoint folder to which only the research team have access and will be deleted 6 months after completion of the project.

The fully anonymised written account will be retained by Birkbeck and the University of Bath for ten years after the study has been completed. Subject to your agreement, the fully anonymised written account will be submitted to the online UK Data Archive (<https://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>), along with other data from this study. This will allow other researchers to access the data and use it in future research.

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

We will share the findings from the study in a wide range of ways, such as reports, journal articles and conference presentations. All findings that are in the public domain will be fully anonymised. We plan to engage with a wide range of stakeholders to develop recommendations for improving policy and practice, and to inform better provision for bereaved people during the inquest process.

**What do I do if there is a problem with my involvement?**

If you are unhappy with any aspect of your involvement in the study, please contact the study’s Principal Investigator, Professor Jessica Jacobson: [j.jacobson@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:j.jacobson@bbk.ac.uk) or 020 3926 1698.

If that does not resolve your concerns, you can contact the Head of Research Strategy Support at Birkbeck, Dr Sarah Lee: [sarah.lee@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.lee@bbk.ac.uk).

**A ‘thank you’ for taking part**

If you decide to take part in the research, you will be given a £20 gift voucher (valid for use in a wide range of high street stores) as a small ‘thank you’ for your contribution.

**Please note: We are aware that taking part in this research, that asks you to think and write about your experiences of an inquest, may be difficult for you. If you would like a researcher to follow up with you after you have submitted your written account to check how you’re feeling about it, or to help you to access a relevant support organisation, please let us know when you send in your written account.**

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Research team use only: interviewee ID code:

**Voicing Loss: A study of bereaved people’s experiences of inquests**

**Participant interview consent form**

**I confirm that:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Please check boxes, as applicable** | |
| I have read the information sheet for this study, I understand the study, and I agree to take part. |  |
| I have had the opportunity to ask questions and to have them answered. |  |
| I understand that: |  |
| * My participation is **voluntary**. I do not need to answer all the questions and I am free to **withdraw** from the study by 31 March 2023, without giving a reason. |  |
| * **Personal information** about me, such as my name and contact details, will only be used for purposes of arranging the submission of the written account and any follow-up as agreed (see below). This information will be held securely and deleted within 6 months of the end of the project. |  |
| * What I write is **confidential**. This means that the researchers will not include any details that could identify me or anyone else in any published report or other output of the research. However, if I write anything that suggests I or someone else is at risk of serious harm, the researchers have a duty to report this to a relevant person or authority. |  |
| * The **anonymised** written account will be held securely by Birkbeck and the University of Bath for 10 years after completion of the study. |  |
| *Please select:*  **I agree** to a fully anonymised version of the written submission being stored in the UK Data Archive, where it may be accessed by other researchers.  **I do not agree** to the written submission being stored in the UK Data Archive. | |

Participant’s name & date: Enter text here

**Follow-up**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Please check all boxes that apply** | | |
| I am interested in being involved in discussions or events about the findings of this project. | Y |  |
| N |  |
| I would like to receive information about the findings of this project when it is complete. | Y |  |
| N |  |
| I am happy for a member of the research team to contact me in relation to inquiries from the media about this project. | Y |  |
| N |  |
| **Please complete for preferred method of contact:**  Email: Enter text here  Telephone: Enter text here  Postal address: Enter text here  **How would you like to receive the £20 gift voucher? This is a ‘thank you’ for taking part in the research.**  Please send by email to above address  Please send by post to above address | | |

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**Voicing Loss: A study of bereaved people’s experiences of inquests**

**Written Account Questions**

You are welcome to answer these questions in whatever format you feel most comfortable with: you can hand-write or type your answers below, or type them into an email.

These questions are just meant to be a guide; you are also welcome to write about any other aspects of your experiences.

Please take your time thinking about the questions and writing your answers; and consider taking breaks if it becomes difficult and coming back to them later.

Please send us your account within one month of receiving this invitation to take part, so that we will have it in time to include in our research. If you are unsure about taking part, or need some further guidance, you can contact a member of the research team to discuss it.

1. In what month and year was the inquest held – or, if there was a coroner’s investigation but no inquest, when did the investigation take place?

Enter text here

1. How was the person who died related to you?

Enter text here

1. Looking back to when you first found out that the coroner was investigating the death, did you expect or want anything in particular from this process? If so, what?

Enter text here

1. In what ways did the coroner’s investigation and inquest meet your expectations/wishes or not?

Enter text here

1. In what ways, if any, were you involved in the coroner’s investigation or inquest? Would you have liked to be more involved, or involved in a different way? Please tell us about this.

Enter text here

1. What kinds of help or support do you think bereaved people should be given during the coroner’s investigation and inquest process?

Enter text here

1. Is there anything else that you would like to share about your experiences of the inquest and coroner’s investigation?

Enter text here

Research team use only: interviewee ID code:

**Demographic information**

*Please tick box or complete as applicable. You do not have to provide this information if you do not wish to.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Interviewee** | |
| Age | ­­­­­­­ Enter text here |
| Gender | Female Male Non-binary Trans  Other (please specify)  ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­ Enter text here |
| Ethnicity  (please select option that best describes ethnic group or background) | Asian/Asian British Black/African/Caribbean/Black British  Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups White  Other ethnic group (please specify)  ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­ Enter text here­­­­­­­­ |
| Nationality | ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­ Enter text here |
| Religion, if any | None  Buddhism  Christianity  Hinduism  Islam Judaism Sikhism  Other religion (please specify)  ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­ Enter text here |
| Place of residence | North West England  North East England  Yorkshire & the Humber  West Midlands  East Midlands  South West England  South East England  East of England  London  Wales  Not England or Wales (please specify)  ­­­­­­­ Enter text here |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Person for whom the inquest was held** | |
| Age at time of death | ­­­­­­­ Enter text here |
| Gender | Female Male Non-binary Trans  Other (please specify)  ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­ Enter text here |
| Ethnicity  (please select option that best describes ethnic group or background) | Asian/Asian British Black/African/Caribbean/Black British  Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups White  Other ethnic group (please specify)  ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­ Enter text here |
| Nationality | ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­ Enter text here |
| Religion, if any | None  Buddhism  Christianity  Hinduism  Islam Judaism Sikhism  Other religion (please specify)  ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­ Enter text here |
| Place of residence  at time of death | North West England  North East England  Yorkshire & the Humber  West Midlands  East Midlands  South West England  South East England  East of England  London  Wales  Not England or Wales (please specify)  ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­ |