**“Is There a Relationship Between Demographics and Attitude Toward Drug Decriminalisation Policy? A Quantitative Research Paper Based in the UK”**

 Please read this thoroughly and in its entirety. Please pass this questionnaire on to other participants you think would be appropriate for the research. Remember, participants must be a UK resident and 18 years old or over.

**Section A: The Research Project**

**1. Purpose of study:**

This study intends to analyse potential relationships between demographics and attitudes towards drug decriminalisation policy. To do this, you are invited to complete an online questionnaire. Once the data has been collected, I will run some statistical tests to see if there is a relationship between demographics and attitudes towards drug decriminalisation policy, for example, are men more likely to have a favourable attitude toward drug decriminalisation compared to women? Further details concerning your role in the study are mentioned further along in this text.

By taking part in this study, you will contribute to academic knowledge in the field of criminal justice policy, demography and attitudinal research. In addition, you will be able to voice your opinion about a topic which is rarely discussed in mainstream UK politics.

**2. Who is the researcher?**

My name is Zoe Conneely and I am the researcher for this study. This research is part of my master’s degree at Anglia Ruskin University and I am being supervised by Dr Mariano Rosenzvaig-Hernandez, a lecturer at the university.

**3. Why have I been asked to participate?**

You are being asked to participate because either this research was passed to you by someone you know, or you came across a link to this questionnaire via social media. This research is hoping to gain a full understanding of what the attitude is of the general public when it comes to drug decriminalisation policy, therefore, you are being invited to participate because you are a part of the general public of the UK and are eighteen years old or over.

**4. Do I have to take part?**

You do not have to take part. You have the right to refuse to take part in this research, without giving any reason. In addition, you can begin this research, but then decide to stop at any point for any reason.

**5. Has this study got ethical approval?**

Yes, this study has been granted ethical approval from the ethics committee at Anglia Ruskin University.

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

The results from this study will be analysed using statistical software and then written up for my Masters dissertation, during this time, the information will be stored on a password protected device. The results may be published or shared in an online repository, however you will not be identifiable from this.

**7. Contact for further information:**

To obtain further information, or make a query regarding this study, please email me at [ZC212@student.aru.ac.uk](mailto:ZC212@student.aru.ac.uk).

**Section B: Your Participation in the Research Project**

**1. What will I be asked to do?**

You are invited to take part in an online questionnaire. It will ask you to give some details about your demographics (such as your age, gender, level of education, the region of the UK that you live in and personal politics). The second part of the questionnaire asks about your attitude towards the concept of drug decriminalisation policy. You’ll be asked to indicate how far you agree with certain statements about drug policy.

As this research is online, you are not required to travel anywhere and I will not have to see you in person at any point. The questionnaire is a one-time participation, so you won’t be asked to participate in any other research relating to this study. The questionnaire is short and consists of 22 questions.

**2. In relation to this specific research project, I need to make you aware of the following:**

This research project will be asking you about personal data. I am in sole control of the data that is collected and in sole control over the research project as a whole. There are no other organisations collaborating with me on this research, nor are there any other people in control of the data that is subsequently collected.

**3. I will be asking you for the following information:**

Personal data such as age, general location data (eg. Whether you live in the east of England, or the north west etc), education level, gender, and opinions regarding drug decriminalisation policy.

Sensitive personal data, including ethnicity data and political beliefs. The political belief data will be collected by asking you two questions, regarding your general political leaning (non- political, left, right, centre) and your political party affiliations (eg. Non- political, labour, conservative, SNP etc). This research will handle this data in accordance with the Data Protection Act (2018).

The data will be shown to me pre-anonymised by the survey software the questionnaires will be completed on. Meaning that I will not be able to identify who you are, and your identity will be protected throughout the writing up process. I will be processing your anonymised data using the data analysis software, SPSS, which will allow me to understand if there are relationships between demographics and attitudes towards drug decriminalisation policy. The data will be processed in the UK and in accordance with UK law. During the processing, the data will be held securely on a password encrypted devise and the questionnaire software is also password encrypted.

The privacy policy of the questionnaire software (Jisc) can be viewed here: <https://www.jisc.ac.uk/website/privacy-notice>.

**4. Are there any possible disadvantages or risks to taking part?**

The overall risk of this research project is low, however, for those who have a personal or familial history of drug use or addiction, this research could potentially result in some difficult feelings. The research orients around drug policy, but if you have a history of trauma which includes drug use, this could mean some uncomfortable feelings could arise from taking part in this research. As all data is anonymised fully, and I, as the researcher, will not have access to your name, the risk of a confidentiality breach is low. However, due to the large amount of personal data that is collected, the risk is inherently higher; every reasonable measure has been made to ensure that there are no leaks of data, in accordance with UK law.

With this in mind, agreement to participate does not affect your legal rights.

**5. What are the likely benefits of taking part?**

It is unlikely that you will experience any direct benefit to this research, however, your participation in this project is of educational benefit.

**6. Can I withdraw at any time, how do I do this? Can I withdraw my data?**

Participants have the right to withdraw from the research at any time, without needing to give a reason. To do so, you may email me at [ZC212@student.aru.ac.uk](mailto:ZC212@student.aru.ac.uk) and quote your participant ID so that I can identify your data in order to remove it from the records. You will be given the opportunity to create a memorable participant ID consisting of 6 digits at the beginning of the questionnaire.

Every participant does not need to answer any question they do not wish to and may terminate their participation at any point.

**7. What will happen to my data?**

Your data will be collected on the questionnaire software, Jisc. It will be temporarily stored on here until I begin the data analysis phase, during this time, I will export the data to the SPSS software. Once I have determined the results, I will make the relevant statistical tables, showing the relationships, or lack of. After this, I will commence with the writing up stage of the research. Your data will be stored on a password encrypted devise and on secure software the entire way through the research. It may be published online or sent to a repository, however you and your responses will not be identifiable.

**8. Contact details for complaints:**

If you have any complaints, please forward them to myself at [ZC212@student.aru.ac.uk](mailto:ZC212@student.aru.ac.uk) or my supervisor at [Mariano.Rosenzvaig-Hernandez@aru.ac.uk](mailto:Mariano.Rosenzvaig-Hernandez@aru.ac.uk) so we can try to reach an informal conclusion.

If you feel your complaint needs to be dealt with in a more formal way, please contact Anglia Ruskin University’s complaints department at [complaints@aru.ac.uk](mailto:complaints@aru.ac.uk).

Date 05 April 2024V1

I confirm that I have read and understood the above information.