



Realities Checked: Interpreting Stories Of Crime In Gypsy And Traveller Communities

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

1. **What is this research about?** The study aims to learn more about the experiences of Gypsies and Traveller prisoners like yourself, as victims of crime, but also as offenders. We know how white, black and Asian people are affected by crime, but not Gypsies and Travellers. We are also keen to understand how you feel about the criminal justice system and its treatment of Gypsies and Travellers. We will be conducting this research in London, Devon, Norfolk and Leeds.

The study is interested in finding out:

- How have Gypsies and Travellers been affected by victimisation, hate crimes and offending over their lifetimes?
- What impact, if any, has discrimination had on Gypsies and Travellers?

2. **Who is doing the research?** Professors Coretta Phillips and Zoë James, who are both criminologists, and Professor Becky Taylor who is an historian. We are all university researchers.
3. **Who is paying for this research?** It has been funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) which funds research into social and economic issues such as quality of life.
4. **How will the research be done?** We will be talking to 20 Gypsy and Traveller prisoners, like yourself, who are serving sentences in prisons around the country.
5. **Do I have to take part?** You do not have to take part in the study and it is up to you whether you do so. If you agree to take part, I will give you this Research Information Sheet to keep and ask you to sign a consent form. You are still free to stop being involved at any time, and you don't have to give a reason.
6. **What will happen in the interview if I agree to take part?** I will ask you some questions about your life before prison as a child and young adult, and about how you got caught up in offending. The interview will also ask about how you think you have been treated by the police, courts, and prison. If any questions make you feel uncomfortable, you do not have to answer them. Ideally, I will talk to you now and on a second occasion so we have plenty of time. You can say as much or as little as you like, but we'll probably talk each time for around an hour or so.
7. **Will people find out that I participated or what I said?** No. If you agree, I would like to record the interview using a voice recorder. I will produce a full record of what is said. The voice recording will be saved to a computer protected by a password which only Professors Phillips, James and Taylor know. You will not be named or identified in any reports that are written about the research.



If I use anything you say today in any reports I write, I would write something like this:

A prisoner named Gavin, currently serving a prison sentence said, '...'

8. **What are the possible benefits of taking part?** You can provide valuable information about Gypsies and Travellers' lives, including experiences of victimisation and discrimination. You might also enjoy talking to someone outside about your life. No other advantages can be gained if you do take part.
9. **Is there anything I might say which you will tell prison staff about?** What you discuss with me is confidential. The only time I have to (by law) tell prison staff is if you tell me about behaviour against prison rules that can be adjudicated against (e.g. escaping), undisclosed illegal acts, behaviour that is harmful to you (e.g. self-harm or suicide), or relating to extremism, radicalisation or security issues.
10. **What will happen to the results of the research study?** They will be written up into articles to be published in academic journals and a book, and presented at various conferences. We will also be working with *Travellers Times* to produce a short film, podcasts, and creative work to share with the public.
11. **Who do I contact if I have a complaint about the research?** Please contact research.ethics@lse.ac.uk

CONSENT FORM

Interviewer's Declaration I declare that I have explained clearly to the participant the aims and objectives of this study and have received their consent to participate as below.	Signature/Date	
	Date:	
Prisoner Declaration I have read and understood the Participant Information Sheet or it has been read to me	YES	NO
I have been able to ask questions and any have been answered to my satisfaction		
I give my consent to participate in this study		
I agree for my interview to be recorded, transcribed word-for-word, and stored on a password-protected computer		
I would like to receive a copy of my interview transcript (address to be provided below)		
I give permission to include my comments, without my name being attributed to them, in your research findings, which will be shared and published: <div style="text-align: center;">I would like this pseudonym to be used with my comments</div>		
I give permission for an actor to voice my words in a podcast, video, or other event		
I give consent for my interview transcript in anonymous form to be archived		
Signature		
	Date:	
Would you like to receive a report on the findings from this research? If YES, please include a postal or email address below:		
Support Services - if you experience any distress as a result of this interview you can contact these organisations to get help:		

If you agree to be interviewed, please complete two copies of the Consent Form below. Return one copy to the researcher and keep the other for your own records

If you have any further questions please contact Professor Coretta Phillips (coretta.phillips@lse.ac.uk)

