

Participant Information Sheet

Please read or listen to someone read the information provided here to decide if you are happy to be involved. You can keep this information for reference.

Study Title: Researching the FGM Intervention programmes linked to African communities in the EU (REPLACE 2)

1. Information about the project/Purpose of the project

The REPLACE2 project is funded by the European Commission and led by Coventry University in the UK. [insert organisation] are a partner on the project. As a member of the community you have been asked to take part in community health advocacy training to become a health advocate to your community. We want to evaluate the impact that this work has, and as part of that evaluation, we would like you to consider completing a short questionnaire about whether your community talks about FGM and your feelings about talking about FGM to others in your community, before the training begins and then directly after it has finished. We would also like you to consider taking part in a discussion in either a focus group or one-to-one interview format about your experiences of the training in order for us to understand your thoughts and feeling about the training and any impact it has had in your life/ community.

2. Why have I been chosen?

You have been chosen because you are a member of the [insert correct community group] community who has enrolled onto the community health advocacy training through [insert organisation].

3. Do I have to take part?

You do not have to take part if you do not want to. Please only take part if you are happy to do so. If change your mind about taking part at anytime you are free to stop without needing to say why. If you change your mind later, use the contact details provided to let us know and we can withdraw any information you have provided.

4. What do I have to do?

We have created a short anonymous questionnaire that asks you about your thoughts about the current status of beliefs about Female genital mutilation/female circumcision in the community and your feelings about wanting to and feeling able to talk to others about FGM. You can view the questionnaire and ensure you're happy with it before agreeing to complete it before and after the training. Later in the project we would like you to take part in either a focus group discussion or one-to-one interview about your experiences of taking part and being involved and your perceptions about the impact the work has had or is having. This can take place at the [insert organisation] office or at the community setting you usually meet in, as best suits you and at a time to suit you. We will use a focus group if we can get enough people together at once, but if that is difficult we may find that speaking with people individually is easier. The focus group if we have one will be made up of people from that took part in the community health advocacy training. Refreshments will be provided and transport costs reimbursed. The focus group discussion will be tape recorded. At the end of the focus group discussion the facilitator will de-brief you about the research and you will be given an opportunity to ask questions and discuss matters relating to your participation.

5. What are the risks associated with this project?

The risks of evaluating the work with us are no greater than risks associated with being involved in other community-based work relating to FGM that you may engage in supported by [insert organisation]. For example, if you speak about FGM, some community members or friends or relatives may respond negatively, but your training with [insert organisation] and the support you receive from your peers and [insert organisation] should help you to respond and manage that appropriately. You do not need to disclose personal information about yourself, we are only interested in your views and your experiences of being involved in the project.

6. What are the benefits of taking part?

You will be receiving training to become a health community advocate, this will include developing skills that can be transferable to many situations e.g. employment. You will receive a certificate on completion of the training. You will also be supporting us to understand more about the impact (positive and negative if that is the case) that the REPLACE2 project work has had in your community.

7. Withdrawal options

If at any time you wish to withdraw the information you have provided from the evaluation study, please contact either [insert organisation] or the research team directly using the contact details provided below.

8. Data protection & confidentiality

The information you provide will be anonymous. If we need to match up information from the same individual we will use a code based on the last 3 digits of your mobile phone number. Information will be stored securely, in locked filing cabinets at [insert organisation] offices. When it is stored electronically it will be in secure password protected locations and transferred via secure on-line systems set up by Coventry University in the UK.

9. What if things go wrong? Who to complain to

If at any time you feel unhappy about the evaluation work or anything else related to the REPLACE2 project please let us know. You can contact the research team in Coventry directly or via [insert organisation] using the details provided below. If we cannot resolve an issue you have and we will put you in direct contact with them.

10. What will happen with the results of the study?

Because this work is funded by the European Commission, the results will be publicly available via a report to the EC and via the project website (www.replacefgm2.eu). We will also disseminate the findings at an event in Brussels at the end of the project. All information about publications of the findings will be available on the website and through [insert organisation].

11. Who has reviewed this study?

The evaluation study has been peer reviewed by the Research Ethics Committee at Coventry University.

12. Further information/Key contact details of researcher and supervisor

If you have any need for further information please contact us:

[Insert organisation]

Contact: [insert correct organisation details]
Email: [insert]
Tel: [insert]
Website: [insert]
Address: [insert]

[Insert organisation]

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Email: [insert]
Tel: [insert]
Website: [insert]
Address: [insert]