

SURVIVOR PERSPECTIVES ON INSTITUTIONAL USES OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL (CSAM)

RESEARCH PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET (VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS- INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS)

Research study: Survivor perspectives on institutional use of Child Sexual Abuse Material

This project has Monash University Human Research Ethics Approval, (project ID approval number: #38448)

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Bravehearts Foundation: Carol Ronken, Director of Research

ABOUT THE PROJECT

- This study is collecting views of adults who are victims and survivors of child sexual abuse about how material documenting or depicting child sexual abuse and exploitation is used in institutional contexts by police and other organisations.
- It is a mixed method study comprising online survey and interview discussions. This explanatory statement concerns the in person interview portion of the research.
- The project is primarily focused on the views of victims and survivors, however we will also conduct interviews with individuals who make use of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) (sometimes called child sexual exploitation material or CSEM) in a professional capacity, such as law enforcement officers; and with individuals who work in advocacy or support services for child abuse victims and survivors.
- The purpose of the research is to ensure victim and survivor perspectives are more clearly acknowledged, understood, and addressed in the design and implementation of tools and processes that support institutional uses of CSAM for investigation or prosecution of child sexual abuse cases, or as data in broader crime prevention research, including development of technology solutions to counter CSAM.

WHO IS FUNDING THE RESEARCH?

- This project is funded by the National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse (National Centre).
- The research is conducted by, and with additional in-kind support from, Monash University and Bravehearts Foundation. The project is based in the Ai for Law Enforcement and Community Safety (AiLECS) lab at Monash University. The lab researches and develops artificial intelligence technologies that aid law enforcement agencies and enhance community safety.

WHO CAN TAKE PART?

- You are invited to participate in this project if you are a victim and/or survivor of child sexual abuse or exploitation and are currently located in Australia (your experience of abuse does not need to have occurred within Australia).
- We are particularly interested in hearing from victims and survivors whose lived experience includes visual imagery or other content that documents or depicts their abuse or exploitation. This material is often referred to as Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) or child sexual exploitation material (CSEM).
- You can choose to participate in an interview if you know or think you have lived experience of CSAM.
- Completion of the online survey is not a prerequisite for interviews - you may decide to do one, both, or not to take part at all.

WHAT DOES MY PARTICIPATION INVOLVE?

- Questions in the interview will ask you to express your views about how CSAM is, or may be, used by police and other institutions.
- **We will not be asking you to talk about your personal experiences of abuse, except to the extent you choose to do so in order to contextualise or explain your views on how CSAM is used.**
- Your decision to participate in this project is completely voluntary and you can opt out or withdraw from further participation at any time without penalty.

INTERVIEW PROCEDURE

- Your participation will involve an interview with a member of the research team. Interviews may be conducted by phone, video call, or in-person at a location you are comfortable attending. Interviews will take approximately an hour. If you give permission, the interview will be recorded and transcribed. You may choose to turn your camera off for the duration of the recorded interview. Transcripts will be de-identified.
- You can revoke consent for research use of your interview at any time (including after interviews are complete). This means that no further use will be made of the interview after you withdraw consent, however existing research findings or outputs making use of the interview that have already been published cannot be withdrawn.

WHAT DOES CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE MEAN?

- If you consent to participate in the research, you are agreeing that information you provide to the project team in the form of interview responses (but not your identity) can be used by researchers as data for the purpose of research into institutional uses of CSAM/CSEM.
- Before taking part in an interview, we will ask you to sign a consent form or to verbally indicate your consent to participate (verbal option will only be available if the consent statement is recorded), and to indicate that you have read and understood this information sheet.
- If you consent to participate, you are free to withdraw from further participation at any time without penalty.
- If you want to withdraw from participation, or to revoke consent for use of your interview please contact the research team using the contact details provided below.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE INFORMATION COLLECTED?

- Under terms of the funding agreement, de-identified data will be transferred to the National Centre on completion of the project.
- Any identifiable data or project records (such as interview recordings and interview consent forms) will be stored securely by Monash University for five years after research use concludes, after which the data/records (and any copies) will be deleted or destroyed.
- For interviews conducted via Zoom, data initially passes through Zoom. Once data has been stored by Monash University, all recorded data will be deleted from the Zoom cloud.
- De-identified interview recordings will be transcribed by a third-party transcription service.
- Project outcomes will be reported through the National Centre and documented on the AiLECS website, as well as potentially through journal articles and conference presentations.
- Victim and survivor interviewees will be invited to participate in co-designing how research outputs are communicated.
- No identifying information will be included in any report, article or presentation except where a participant chooses to be a named co-author.
- You can contact the research team at any time if you have any questions about the research data or published outputs.

BENEFITS AND RISKS

- This project may not benefit you directly. However, it may benefit victims and survivors in the future by providing an evidence base for more trauma-informed and survivor-centred processes around institutional use of CSAM.
- Interview participants will be compensated for their time at \$30/hour. This is in recognition of the value of survivors' voice and experience.
- There are no anticipated risks to you from participating in this project, and we will not be asking you to discuss specifics of your abuse. However, we recognise that through reflecting on the potential uses of CSAM material generally and your experiences, some participants may be at risk of re-traumatisation. If you find you would like to talk to someone, please see below for contacts for support and advice.

IF YOU NEED SUPPORT OR ADVICE

- If you need any support or advice throughout your participation in this project, or at any stage:
 - Bravehearts information and support line: 1800 272 831 operates during the hours of 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday AEST (hours may vary on public holidays); or visit <https://bravehearts.org.au/get-help/information-support-line/>
 - 13YARN, talk with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter: 13 92 76 (24 hours/7 days).

- Blue Knot Helpline and Redress Support Service: 1300 657 380, operates from 9am-5pm AEST/AEDT 7 days a week including public holidays. You can also email helpline@blueknot.org.au
 - SAMSN (NSW ONLY) for male survivors to talk with peer support: 1800 472 676 or see <https://www.samsn.org.au/>
 - You can also call the Lifeline 24/7 crisis support service on 13 11 14.
- For more information on these services see our website support page at <https://survivorviewsresearch.info/support>
 - If your participation in an interview causes you distress and you do not wish to continue please advise the interviewer. You are free to defer or discontinue your interview at any time.

ETHICS APPROVAL

- This study has been approved by the Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee [project ID #38448] and the Bravehearts Ethical Research Advisory Committee.
- If you want to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, or if you need to make a complaint about conduct of the research, you can contact the MUHREC: managerresearchethics@monash.edu.

QUESTIONS / FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT

If you have any questions or require further information please contact Kelly Humphries at kelly.humphries@monash.edu.

Thank you for helping with this research. Please keep this sheet for your information.