

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

RESEARCH PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET (ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS)

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.
- Whilst the project is primarily focused on the views of victims and survivors, 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.
- It is a mixed method study comprising online survey and interview discussions. This explanatory statement concerns the interviewing of participants from organisations and institutions participating in this research.
- 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 being invited to participate in this project in your capacity as someone who makes use of CSAM in a professional capacity; or as a provider of advocacy and/or support services for child abuse victims and survivors and those whose abuse may have been recorded or depicted in online abuse.
- If you would like to participate as a person with lived experience of child sexual abuse or exploitation, you can access the participant information sheet for victims and survivors.

WHAT DOES MY PARTICIPATION INVOLVE?

- You will be asked, through an in-person interview, to share your knowledge and views about how CSAM (child sexual abuse material that contains representations/depictions of actual abuse) is or could be retained and used by police and other institutions.
- Topics will include discussion of how CSAM is currently retained and shared in institutional contexts (based on your professional experience); as well as your views on other prospective or hypothetical uses.
- 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. Interviews will take approximately an hour. With your permission, the interview will be recorded and transcribed. Transcripts will be de-identified.
- Interview participants can revoke consent for research use of their interview at any time (including after interviews are complete), on the understanding that no further use will be made of the interview content after consent is revoked, 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.
- 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 after providing consent, or to revoke consent for use of your interview please contact the research team using the contact details provided on this form.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE INFORMATION COLLECTED?

- De-identified interview recordings will be transcribed by a third-party transcription service.
- 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.
- 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.
- No identifying information will be included in any report, article or presentation except where a participant is 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 and participants interviewed in a professional capacity will not be reimbursed in any way for participation.
- There are no anticipated risks to you from participating in this project. However, we recognise that reflecting on the potential uses of CSAM material generally may be distressing; and also, that some participants may potentially be at risk of re-traumatisation associated with their own circumstances. 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.

ETHICS APPROVAL

- This study has been approved by the Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee [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.