

STAY BRAVE

Ending Stigma. Preventing Abuse.
staybrave.org.uk | hello@staybrave.org.uk

"SPEAKING OUT" PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Invitation

This is an open call to all survivors of interpersonal abuse to participate in our survey. Participants are welcomed regardless of gender, sexuality or any other characteristic, or type of abuse or assault, and all responses are anonymous. All we ask is that participants are aged 18+, live in the UK (or were residents when the incident occurred), and have experienced one or more incident of domestic or sexual abuse (of any form) at any point in their lives.

Before making a decision to participate in this survey, we'd like to ensure you are as informed as possible as to the purposes of this research, what it will involve, and how your data will be used. Please take time to read the information on this sheet, and ensure you understand what participation involves. If anything is unclear or you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch at hello@staybrave.org.uk.

Why are you doing this research?

It is estimated that 31% of adults who experience interpersonal abuse will not tell anyone about their experience, and a large proportion will only ever disclose to partners, family or friends.¹ It is only by cultivating communities where survivors feel able to speak out about their experiences can we as a society seek to understand the extent and impacts of abuse fully.

We know that more work needs to happen to ensure victims/survivors feel that they can be heard. The key aims of this research are to:

- 1) Explore the motivational factors **for** sharing experiences of assault/abuse
- 2) Explore the motivational factors **for not** sharing experiences
- 3) Understand the barriers to speaking out

¹ [Crime Survey England and Wales March 2017](#)

Do I have to take part?

Participation is entirely voluntary. A copy of this information sheet will remain online throughout the duration of this research, as well as being available for you to download for your records. Involvement requires participation in an online survey only, no other actions are required. You can withdraw at any time by closing your browser and you are not required to provide a reason.

At the end of the survey, you will also be given an option to opt-in to email updates regarding Stay Brave's Champions Scheme, but please be assured that, should you opt-in, all data relating to the research will be held separately to your email address and will be handled anonymously.

How will you store my responses?

All data is collected and stored anonymously and kept securely and will be accessible only to those within Stay Brave's team who require it to perform their roles. Where participants have opted-in for email updates, these will be separated from survey responses upon completion.

All data is stored and processed according to the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). More information regarding Stay Brave's data handling policies can be read in our Privacy Policy (available on our website).

Your participation will not be identified or identifiable in any reports or publications. Collected data may be shared for reuse by the research team or by third parties, however this will only be in an anonymised form which will not allow any individuals to be identified or identifiable in anyway.

Will I be asked any questions that I may find upsetting?

This survey asks questions regarding survivors' experience of sharing details of abuse/assault with others. It asks details regarding who and when they disclosed their experience to, and explores motivations and reasons for sharing/not sharing their experiences with others. It is not our intention to cause any distress or upset for any participants of this survey.

We have undertaken ethical considerations throughout the planning and development of this project, and have deemed this survey to be of minimal risk to the health, safety and wellbeing to participants. It asks for no explicit details directly regarding the abuse/assault itself. That being said, we understand that the topics discussed in this survey are sensitive and some of the questions may have the potential to prompt memories that may be distressing for some participants. We would urge all individuals to consider if it is the right time for them to engage in this research before participating.

As Stay Brave does not provide a crisis service, we are unable to provide any emotional support, but would encourage anyone in need of support to visit the "Help" section on our website for signposting options.

What will you do with the research?

Participants' responses will be read and analysed anonymously by the project team (see below). Research findings will be published in a number of forms throughout the coming year. There are several proposed outputs for the research, outlined as followed:

- 1) **“Speaking Out” Research Report** : A report to showcase research findings, offering an overview of data collected from the survey, highlight particular causes for concern / gaps in support and will make several suggestions for wider policy actionings.
- 2) **“Speaking Out” Toolkit**: A publication for survivors who are considering 'speaking out' about their experience for the purposes of campaigning/ influencing policy.
- 3) **Inform Policy & Campaign actions**: It is anticipated that, based on research findings, several key Policy + Campaigns actioning points regarding survivors' barriers to disclosure will be revealed. This will help form Stay Brave's Policy + Campaigns strategy for the upcoming years.
- 4) **Other**: Stay Brave reserves the right to use this research and any results gained for other purposes as informed by our charitable objectives and legitimate business interests. This may include, but is not restricted to, the development of content for digital communications.

Who's involved in this research project?

This project is organised by Stay Brave and lead by Rachel Turpin (Policy + Campaigns Manager), who will be supported by William King (Research + Insight Officer) and Sarah Smith (Research Support Officer).

Thank you for participating in this research.