

## **Welcome to the Gender Recognition & Reform Project**

The following is a brief summary about the SURVEY component of the GRR Project. Please consider the information about this project set out below and discuss with family, friends, others or ask the researcher any questions.

### **Why have I been approached?**

You are invited to take part because you identify as trans and/or non-binary, you are over the age of 16 and it is important that your voice is heard in the debate on the legal recognition of gender.

### **What is this research about?**

There is a lot of debate about how the law could be changed to meet the needs of trans people. The Gender Recognition & Reform (GRR) project at Exeter University wants to hear your responses and thoughts about possible ways to improve this system. You do not have to have been through the process of applying for legal gender recognition to respond to this survey - we are looking for responses from all those identifying as trans and/or non-binary who are over the age of 16.

### **What is the Gender Recognition Act (GRA)?**

The GRA is the law that allows trans people to have their gender legally recognised, giving them access to legal rights and responsibilities of the gender they identify with and a new birth certificate. The Government undertook a public consultation on the GRA to gather opinions on the system and the consultation closed in October 2018; this project is undertaken in light of the consultation. The questions in this survey relate specifically to the 'Standard Track' for obtaining a Gender Recognition Certificate, which is the most popular, with over 95% of applicants using this route.

### **What would taking part involve?**

Taking part involves a short survey which should take about 12 minutes. Please do not leave any identifying information in your responses\*. However, if you do, this will be removed by the researcher as soon as reasonably possible.

\*At the end of this survey, there is an opportunity for those identifying as non-binary to leave contact details to be contacted for an additional face-to-face, Skype or telephone interview. If you decide to leave your contact details, you will be contacted to see if you still wish to take part and if so, to arrange an interview. You will be given an Information Sheet and Consent Form before the interview to check that you are still happy to take part. You can change your mind about participating before, during and even after the interview (subject to the conditions outlined in the Information Sheet).

### **Will I receive payment for taking part?**

As a token of appreciation for your participation, ten £10 vouchers or an equivalent charitable donation to a registered UK charity is available to be won as part of a randomised draw if you leave your contact details when prompted. This is entirely optional, and you do not have to enter the draw.

### **What are the risks?**

Most of the questions in this survey do not ask for details of personal experiences, but it is possible that answering the questions may cause you upset or distress. You are reminded that you are able to withdraw before or during the survey. Should you experience any upset or distress, please refer to the UK helplines at the end of this Information Sheet.

### **What if I change my mind?**

Taking part in the survey is entirely up to you and you can choose not to take part or stop halfway through. You can withdraw from the study at any time by not submitting your

responses and closing the survey. Once you have submitted however, your data cannot be withdrawn. Your consent to the information contained in this Information Sheet is inferred on the basis that you have read this before the survey, selected “I agree, proceed to survey” and proceeded to the survey. By clicking this, you are agreeing to participate in research being undertaken by the University of Exeter.

If you leave your contact details for an interview, the default position is that these will only be used for the purposes of organising an interview and they will be stored securely and deleted up to 21 days following the interview. However, you can request to withdraw them before this date by emailing [recogandreform@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:recogandreform@exeter.ac.uk).

If you leave contact details to be entered in the draw for a £10 voucher or equivalent charitable donation, the default position is that these will only be stored securely and used for the purposes of organising receipt of the voucher/donation. They will be immediately deleted following this by default.

### **What will happen to the data?**

Results from the interview will be used in fulfilment of a PhD qualification. Information that you provide may be used for publication in academic journals, presented at conferences, seminars or other forms of publication but these will all be anonymised. The University of Exeter processes personal data for the purposes of carrying out research in the public interest. The University shall endeavour to be transparent about its processing of your personal data and this Information Sheet should provide a clear explanation of this. If you do have any queries about the University’s processing of your personal data that cannot be resolved by the researcher, further information may be obtained from the University’s Data Protection Officer by emailing [dataprotection@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@exeter.ac.uk) or at [www.exeter.ac.uk/dataprotection](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/dataprotection).

### **Will I be identified?**

Responses to this survey are anonymous, including to the researcher. Your survey responses will be kept separate from any contact details you may leave. If you do leave any identifiable information in the survey, this will be removed prior to any form of publication or sharing of the results. Every effort will be taken to obscure and remove identifiable information prior to publication or sharing of the results. However, there is always a risk that you may be identifiable from the information provided.

For any questions, queries or feedback, please contact Mollie Gascoigne at [recogandreform@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:recogandreform@exeter.ac.uk) or directly at [M.Gascoigne@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:M.Gascoigne@exeter.ac.uk). Mollie is a PhD Candidate at Exeter University and is the creator of the Gender Recognition & Reform project. Mollie is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council for this PhD research. The Intercom Trust, Mermaids UK and other organisations/groups have very kindly and generously supported the research by enabling the researcher to make contact with the community, but the researcher is responsible for the conduct of the research. If you are unhappy with any aspect of this research and wish to raise an issue with someone other than the named researcher, please contact either the SSIS College Research Ethics Committee at [ssis-ethics@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:ssis-ethics@exeter.ac.uk) or Dr Stephen Skinner (supervisor) at [S.J.Skinner@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:S.J.Skinner@exeter.ac.uk).

This project has been approved by the SSIS Ethics Committee at the University of Exeter (ref No. 201920-035)

### **Need support?**

The Intercom Trust Confidential Helpline: 0800 612 3010

The Intercom Trust Confidential email: [helpline@intercomtrust.org.uk](mailto:helpline@intercomtrust.org.uk)

Mermaids UK: 0808 801 0400