



Participation Consent Form

Study title: Broken Rainbow? Global LGBTQI+ Human Rights in Contemporary Society

Participant code: _____

Statement	Please initial if you agree
I am over the age of 18	
I have read and understood the attached study information and, by signing below, I consent to participate in this study.	
I understand that I have the right to withdraw from the study without giving a reason at any time during the study itself.	
I understand that I also have the right to change my mind about participating in the study for a short period after the study has concluded. Please note that this will be one month after the interview has concluded.	
I understand that any anonymised quotes from me may be used by the researcher in further publications beyond the scope of this research, such as academic journals, conferences, and similar.	

Please print, sign and date below:

Print name	
Signed	
Date	

Your name, along with your participant code given to you, is important to help match your data from the findings. It will not be used for any purpose other than this.

Witnessed by (Lead Researcher to complete):

Print name	
Signed	
Date	



PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask me if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether you wish to take part.

Study Title:

Broken Rainbow? Global LGBTQI+ Human Rights in Contemporary Society

What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of this study is to examine what is happening across the globe to the human rights of sexual and gender minorities, what progress has been made, and what challenges are faced.

For this study, I am happy to use the terms LGBTQI+ (or similar), SOGIESC (sexual orientation, gender identity, expression, or sex characteristics) or sexual and gender minorities, whatever is most comfortable and relatable to you. I welcome people who are intersex and who identify as part of the LGBTQI+ spectrum.

The aim of this study is to examine the changing landscapes of human rights for sexual and gender minorities at a nation state, regional and/or a global level, and to examine the current progress and challenges faced ahead.

The objectives of this study are:

- To illustrate the changes and challenges faced by sexual and gender minorities within different regions of the globe.
- To evaluate the geo-political, social, cultural, economic, legal, and political shifts in the global human rights for sexual and gender minorities in different regions of the globe, and how they have come about.
- To examine the human rights challenges faced by sexual and gender minorities, and their resistance to these challenges.
- To build up a global 'snapshot' of how the human rights of sexual and gender minorities have changed, and continue to change, including any challenges faced.

Who can take part in the study?

I am interested in speaking to sexual and gender minorities with lived experience within their nation state, or who work or volunteer as part of any organisation which seeks to advance the national, regional, or global human rights of sexual and gender minorities and who can share their knowledge about the current state of human rights for sexual and gender minorities. This may be a charity/non-profit/NGO, INGO, business, a government department, a branch of the United Nations, or similar.

You must be aged 18 or above to take part and belong to an organisation as a paid member of staff, or as a volunteer in some capacity. All interviews will be held in English.

Do I have to take part?

Participation is entirely voluntary. If you change your mind about taking part in the study, **you can withdraw at any point during the session without giving a reason and without penalty.** After you have completed the study, you can also withdraw your consent for your data to be included by contacting me via email **within one month of participation** and providing me with your participant code.

The participant code will be given to you after you have consented to take part in the study. If you decide to withdraw during the study or in the subsequent one-month period, your data will be destroyed and will not be used in the study.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you take part in the research, you will be asked to take part in an online interview via Microsoft Teams or Zoom lasting no more than 1-1.5 hours, which will ask you about your professional knowledge of the human rights of sexual and gender minorities in your country, region, or area of work. I am interested in looking at the changes you have seen so far, and the challenges faced ahead.

I am happy to fit around your schedule and time-zone, including being happy to interview on weekends or evenings. I have a [booking link via Calendly](#), which shows my available times and dates.

I am happy to send the interview questions in advance if you would like to review them. I will record the online interviews.

The online recordings of your interviews made during the research will be used only for analysis. No other use will be made of them without your written permission, and no one outside the project will be allowed access to the original recordings.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

There are no foreseen disadvantages or risks to you by your participation in this study. However, I do recommend taking part in this online interview in a private workplace or a safe space, not a public area where you can be overheard.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Whilst there are no immediate benefits for those people participating in the project, it is hoped that this work will add to the growing and important knowledge of the global human rights of sexual and gender minorities, in contemporary society.

What if something goes wrong?

If you change your mind about participation, please contact me by email to cancel your participation. If you feel unhappy after the study, please contact me immediately or the Chairperson of the University of Sunderland Research Ethics Committee, whose contact details are given below.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

All your details will be confidential, anonymous and any identifying features or locations will be altered. Strict security procedures for maintaining the data will ensure that your transcripts and details will be kept behind a secure, password-protected data cloud. The storage and use of the research data (including your personal data) will comply with the Data Protection Act (2018), the Human Rights Act (1998) and the University of Sunderland Code of Practice on Data Protection. I will personally abide by the British Sociological Association's Ethical Code of Practice.

The only time confidentiality would have to be breached would be if you disclosed an intention to harm yourself or others. The results of the study will form a book, and anonymised excerpts may be used in other academic publications and conferences.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

If suitable, the results may also be presented at academic conferences and/or written up for publication in peer reviewed academic journals.

Who is organising and funding the research?

Drew Dalton is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Sunderland, specialising in global LGBTQI+ issues. He is also the Chair of Trustees/CEO of ReportOUT, a global human rights charity for sexual and gender minorities.

Who has reviewed the study?

The University of Sunderland Research Ethics Committee has reviewed and approved the study.

Contact for further information

Lead Researcher:

Dr Drew Dalton (Senior Lecturer in Sociology, University of Sunderland)

Email: Andrew.dalton@Sunderland.ac.uk

Phone: 0191 515 3204

If you have any problems with this study, please contact:

Dr John Fulton (Chair of the University of Sunderland Research Ethics Group, University of Sunderland)

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Phone: 0191 515 2529