

Participant Information Sheet 1.1

Rain Within the Rainbow

You are being invited to take part in research on LGBTQ+ people's experiences of suicidal distress in the UK. Hazel Marzetti, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Edinburgh is leading this research. Before you decide whether to take part it is important you understand why the research is being conducted and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of the study is to better understand a diverse range of LGBTQ+ people's experiences of suicidal thoughts, feelings and attempts in the UK.

We are interested in understanding what has contributed to suicidal distress and crisis (whether or not they are related to your sexual or romantic orientation or gender identity), as well as what has helped people to cope with suicidal thoughts or feelings, and where relevant what has helped life to feel more liveable for you.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You are invited to participate in this study because you are an LGBTQ+ person, living in the UK, aged 13+, who has previously had suicidal thoughts or feelings, or attempted suicide.

Do I have to take part?

No – it is entirely up to you. If you do decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. Deciding not to take part or withdrawing from the study will not affect your healthcare, employment or access to services.

You will have a month following your participation (taking part in an interview, giving us your Story Book, or completing the Story Box) to withdraw your data in its entirety. After this time, the information you have shared with us ("your data") may be used in written articles, talks, presentations, reports, and other types of research outputs – but every effort will be made to ensure that any information that could identify you is anonymised to protect your identity.

What will happen if I decide to take part

If you do decide to take part, please keep this Information Sheet. You will be asked to complete an Informed Consent Form to show that you understand your rights in relation to the research, and that you are happy to take part.

There are three different ways that you can take part in this research, and we encourage you to select the way/s that feel most comfortable for you to take part in, for example you may wish to complete a Story Book, and then take part in an interview.

The three ways to take part:

Firstly, you can download our **Story Book** and complete it at your own pace, writing or drawing your story in response to our prompt questions. You can find the Story Book here: [hyperlink once study is live].

Secondly, our **Story Box** provides an online questionnaire where you can anonymously write or audio record your story (and include images if you would like). You can access the Story Box here: [hyperlink once study is live].

Finally, our **interview** is a conversation between you and a researcher that will happen either online (in a quiet, private location) or in person in a location that is convenient for you (for example, the research team could book a private room in your local library or community centre). Ideally, interviews are audio recorded (and we will require your consent for this). If you would like to know what you will be asked in your interview to prepare yourself, you can see a copy of the interview questions here: [hyperlink once study is live]. Interviews will take around 1 and a half hours to complete.

What are the benefits of taking part?

There are no direct benefits, but by sharing your experiences with us, you will be helping the Rain Within the Rainbow team and the University to better understand LGBTQ+ suicide and suicide prevention in the UK.

Are there any risks or disadvantages associated with taking part?

Thinking and talking about your experiences of suicidal distress can be upsetting and so it's important to take care of yourself. We encourage you to take a look at our **Reflection Questions** [insert hyperlink when live] to think about whether this is the right time and the right opportunity for you to take part in. Feel free to discuss this with anyone you would find it useful to talk to about taking part with. At any time, for any reason, during the research activities, you can pause, take a break or decide you no longer want to take part. We only ever want you to take part if it's a good decision for you.

Will my taking part be kept confidential?

We will make every effort to maintain confidentiality. You will be invited to choose an alternative name (a "pseudonym") to be referred to in our data, analysis, and any outputs from the project (e.g. written articles or reports, talks or presentation, or in events).

We will change elements of your story that we believe might be able to be used to identify you e.g. specific locations you mention – we encourage you to let us know if there is anything you would like us to pay special attention to when anonymising information about you.

If you choose to share handwritten or hand-drawn elements (for example in the Story Book), or share images with us please be aware that these may reveal your identity to people in your life who might be able to recognise them. Please only share what you are comfortable with and do not share images of others if you do not have permission to do so (you may wish to cover over others faces in any images you share with the research team).

Exceptions to confidentiality:

There may be times that we have to tell someone else about something you have said to us, for example if:

- you tell us that you feel your life or someone else's life is in immediate danger
- you tell us about someone who is hurting a child or a vulnerable adult
- you ask us to contact a third party on your behalf

If we believe that we need to share information about you (for example, with emergency services) then we will try where possible to talk to you in advance, so that together we can work out who to tell and how to tell them.

How will we use information about you?

We will use the information you give us for this research project, this may include your name, phone number and email address, which we may use to contact you with if you have chosen to provide these. People who do not need to know who you are will not be able to see your name or contact details. We will keep information about you safe and secure.

If you consent to being audio recorded in an interview, or provide audio recordings via the Story Box, all recordings will be destroyed once they have been analysed. Unanonymised data will only be viewed by the research team and where necessary by [1st Class Secretarial Services](#) who are a professional transcription service that we use to transcribe interviews where automatic transcription is not possible (e.g. via video conferencing software like Teams and Zoom). All electronic data will be stored on a password-protected computer file and all paper records will be stored in a locked container.

Your data will be referred to by a pseudonym (you will have the option to choose a pseudonym that we will refer to you with, or alternatively you can ask us to select one for you). We will use your pseudonym to refer to you in any outputs from the research (e.g. written reports, or in presentations or talks). We will anonymise your Story Book, Story Box, and/or interview responses to try and ensure that no one can work out that you took part in the study. Once we have finished the study, we will keep some of the data for a minimum of ten years so that we can continue to work with the data, and so that we can go back and check the results.

Anonymised data will also be archived in a secure data repository to enable other researchers to apply to the lead researcher (Hazel Marzetti) for data access so they can check the research findings and use for future ethically approved, legitimate research. Extensive attention will be paid to your confidentiality and information that could identify you will be anonymised or redacted prior to archiving.

What are your choices about how your information is used?

You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason. As we need to manage your records in specific ways for the research to be reliable, we cannot allow you to change the data that we hold about you. But you may add to it (e.g. sending us additional information that you want to add to a response you've already given). Alternatively, it will be possible to request your data to be deleted for up to a month after you have engaged in the research activity (i.e. after you have submitted your response to the Story Box, sent us your Story Book or participated in an interview). After this time, we will keep information about you that we already have.

Where can you find out more about how your information is used?

For further information about data privacy for research participants please refer to: <https://data-protection.ed.ac.uk/privacy-notice-research>

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- by asking one of the research team
- by sending an email to RainWithinTheRainbow@ed.ac.uk

The University of Edinburgh is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. We will be using information from you in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Edinburgh will keep your anonymised data for a minimum of ten years. Identifiable information about you will be destroyed at the earliest opportunity following anonymisation, with the exception of (i) the audio recording which will be used in the initial stage of analysis and then destroyed; and (ii) Story Books, which may have identifiable information that are necessary for analysis, and that due to their handmade nature are not possible to fully anonymise.

What will happen with the results of this study?

The results of this study may be summarised in published articles, reports and presentations. You will not be identifiable from any published results. Quotes or key findings will be made anonymous in any formal outputs unless we have your prior and explicit written permission to attribute them to you by name. Your anonymised information will be kept for future research.

A summary of the findings from the study will be made available to participants who indicate they would like to receive this. This summary will be sent to participants by email.

Who is organising and funding the research?

This study has been organised by Dr Hazel Marzetti and sponsored by the University of Edinburgh.

The study is being funded by the Wellcome Trust.

Who has reviewed this study?

The study proposal has been reviewed by the University of Edinburgh's School of Health in Social Sciences' Research Ethics Committee.

Who can I contact?

If you have any further questions about the study, please contact the lead researcher, Hazel Marzetti: hazel.marzetti@ed.ac.uk

If you would like to discuss this study with someone independent of the study, please contact Prof Amy Chandler: a.chandler@ed.ac.uk

If you wish to make a complaint about the study, please contact:

Professor Matthias Schwannauer, Head of the School of Health in Social Sciences, headofschool.health@ed.ac.uk or Research Governance Team (cahss.res.ethics@ed.ac.uk).