



Meanings of “Home” and “Homelessness” for LGBT+ youth in Scotland.

Participant Information Sheet

April/ May 2020

If you want to get involved in this project, please get in touch with:

Catalina Martin PhD researcher at the University of Edinburgh

Email: C.Martin-23@sms.ed.ac.uk

You are invited to take part in a research project. In this project we want to learn about LGBT+ young people’s experiences and your understanding of home (and its multiple meanings; shelter, relationships, safe space, traditions etc.). If you wish, you can show us what home means to you by taking photos or making drawings which reflect this. Alternatively, you can think about an object that portrays your meanings of home and we can discuss in an interview. If you prefer to just take part in a discussion/ interview that is okay too, we want to learn from your experiences.

Please take the time to read the information we have put together about this project before you decide to take part. If you need more information or to ask anything about this project please let me know, I am happy to answer any questions regarding this study.

Why am I conducting this study?

We know from research that many LGBT+ young people experience homelessness.

Some studies have focused on the challenges faced by young people such as: increased risk of poor mental and physical health and discrimination when asking for help.

Other studies have looked at the strength shown by this group and how things like supportive services, role models, access to social networks and LGBT communities can help young people in this situation.

However, little research has been carried out *with* LGBT+ young people to find out their views on these issues.

I think that to better understand LGBT+ youth experiences of homelessness, it is important to look at the lives of these young people at home, their relationships with their families and friends as well as their experiences at school and close community.

How am I planning to collect data?

In this study, I will be interviewing young people using Skype or Collaborative, a University of Edinburgh system that works just like Zoom. If participants are up for it, I will ask them to either make photos or drawings, or choose an object, that represent the meanings of home for them. The visuals people make, or the object chosen, are

then discussed to explore what these are trying to capture and why. This method gives people the chance to show the world as they see it and take part in research in a more active way.

What do I want to find out?

The aim of this study is to explore experiences of home and homelessness for LGBT+ youth in Scotland. In this study we are interested in learning about:

- what does home mean to young LGBT+ people in Scotland?
- experiences of coming out and home.
- Relationships LGBTQ+ youth have with their family, friends, pets.
- Ideal and experienced home
- the importance of their bedroom or own space.
- experiences of growing up/ transitions to adulthood
- material aspects of home
- what has been the impact of isolation and movement restrictions as well as the experience of home at this time?

Who can take part?

We are looking for young people in the LGBT+ community ages 18-25 to share their stories. You could be living at home, with friends, extended family, on your own, in student accommodation, you could have experience of care, homelessness etc.

What do I have to do?

If you decide to take part in the project, you will be asked to take part an interview (via email, instant messaging or video/voice call) and if

you want, you can also take some photos, produce a drawing or think about an object that reflects your understanding and experiences of home.

1st meeting or contact: We will discuss the study and methods in more detail. We will discuss ethical issues raised in this project which include the importance of providing informed consent, getting permission from others if taking their pictures, collecting data that keeps everyone safe and ownership of materials produced.

On this initial meeting, we you can decide how you would like the interview to be delivered, either by email, instant messaging or video/ voice call. We can also discuss the importance of keeping safe, being aware of privacy and intimacy when using Skype or Collaborative as well taking about expectations and possible involvement in other parts of the research. The idea is to create a safe space for the production and sharing of information. On this initial contact we will set a date for the interview.

Making pictures/photos or choosing an object that helps you reflect on your meanings of home (optional): between the first and second meeting you will be asked to take photos or make pictures about what you think about 'home'. You can also choose an object that represents home to you, and we can discuss this in the interview. This is optional, if you prefer to take part in an interview alone, this is okay too!

2nd meeting -interview: entails taking part in a semi-structure interview about your meanings and experiences of home. What we talk about is up to you and will depend on what your pictures are about (on the theme of 'home') or the objects you identify as important in your understandings of home. You will have a chance to talk about what they show and the reasons you made them.

If you prefer to take part by telephone interview alone, this is okay too. We can arrange a telephone interview at your convenience, and we can discuss what home means to you this way too.

With your permission I will record the interviews. This is a common research procedure and helps me remember what everyone says.

Do I have to take part?

No, it is up to you. If you decide to take part, you will be asked to sign a consent form to confirm your participation. If you don't want to take part, or you change your mind at any stage, you don't have to give us a reason for doing so. If you want to get involved in a different way I am happy to discuss other possibilities. If you have any questions about this or any other aspect of the project, at any time, please ask us.

What might be difficult about taking part?

There is a possibility that by taking part in this project you might become upset when reflecting on the topic of home and homelessness. Please remember to keep yourself safe and to only share experiences you are comfortable with. Feel free to stop or take a break at any time, if you feel uncomfortable or upset. If you become very upset as a result of taking part of this study, please feel free to speak to me about it. At the end of the project I will share a list of useful contacts which can help if you are worried about something.

What are the good things about taking part?

This is an opportunity for you to share your views and influence a local study about LGBT young people in Scotland. The visual objects you produced (photos, drawings, paintings) are yours to keep but you

will be given the chance to share these with a bigger audience through different formats (presentations, papers, website).

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Yes, all your personal information will be kept private and confidential throughout this study.

At the end of the project, we will produce different sources of information (journal articles, reports, exhibition). With your permission, we will use some of the material you produced. You will have chance to have your say about how these stories should be shared, so if you are interested in taking part in this part of the study, please let me know as soon as you can.

Your name will not come up in any of the items we produce. All identifiable information will be changed so that no one will be able to tell it is you. If anyone appears in the photos you take, they will need to agree (sign a consent form) to us to be able to use this photo.

Digital data (photo files and recordings) will be stored on password protected computer. Printed photographs, notes, and signed consent forms will be stored in locked in personal filing cabinets. The design and execution of project will be informed by the University of Edinburgh's Ethics in Research Guidelines.

There are times where I would have to break confidentiality. If, through taking part in the study, I become aware that you, or someone else, is at risk of serious immediate or ongoing harm, I will have to tell someone. I will tell you if I feel that I have to do this, and together we will decide who would be the best person to share this information with to keep you or the other person safe.

If we use Skype to do these interviews, it is important to be aware of the fact that these mediums are owned by third parties such as governments and corporations which means that calls might be monitored. If we use Collaborative we would benefit from the University of Edinburgh's security structures.

What will happen to my data?

If you decide to take part, your 'data' will include – transcripts of any recorded discussions, as part of a one-to-one interviews, and any images that you make and give permission for the study to use. I will use this data to write about your and other LGBT+ young people's experiences and views of 'home' and homelessness. This writing will be for my PhD dissertation, and may also be for academic journals or online 'blogs'. I will also talk about the data at conferences and share the data (without revealing your identity) with youth workers, policy makers and other people who care for or make decisions about the lives of LGBT+ young people. The data will be deposited in a data storage facility, which means that in future other researchers can use this data.

Who is organizing the research?

The research is done as part of a PhD project by University of Edinburgh, by a team in the School of Health in Social Sciences. It is funded by the School of Health in Social Science and is taking place in the Centre for Homeless and Inclusion Health.

Ethical approval

Ethical approval for this project has been granted by the School of Health in Social Sciences Ethics Committee, University of Edinburgh.

Where can I get more information?

If you would like further information about taking part in this project, please contact Mrs Catalina Martin see details below. Contact details of this study's supervision team are also found below for your information.

Mrs Catalina Martin (PhD Researcher) School of Health in Social Sciences University of Edinburgh Email: C.Martin-23@sms.ed.ac.uk	Dr Fiona Cuthill (PhD Supervisor) School of Health in Social Sciences University of Edinburgh Email: Fiona.Cuthill@ed.ac.uk	Dr Amy Chandler (PhD Supervisor) School of Health in Social Sciences University of Edinburgh Email: a.chandler@ed.ac.uk
--	---	--

Complaints

If you wish to make a complaint, you may also contact Professor Matthias Schwannauer, Head of School - Health in Social Science, The University of Edinburgh at Matthias.schwannauer@ed.ac.uk