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Information Sheet for Participants

Title of Study: Suicide in/as politics (suicide, prisons and the police workshops)

Research Team: Ana Jordan & Alex Oaten - University of Lincoln.

Amy Chandler & Hazel Marzetti - University of Edinburgh.

You are invited to take part in a series of workshops for a research project called 'Suicide in/as Politics'. This information sheet explains why we are doing this research and what is involved in the workshops. Alex Oaten will talk through this information with you, to help you decide if you would like to take part and answer any questions you may have. You can contact Alex Oaten at AOaten@lincoln.ac.uk. You are also free to discuss getting involved in the project with anyone you wish to.

Why are we doing this research?

Background to our research project: Suicide is a political issue, talked about by politicians and governments who make policies to try and prevent it. Suicide is affected by a whole host of issues, many of which are also political. In this project, we are interested in looking at how suicide is talked about in policies and by politicians in their parliamentary debates in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. In the first phase of our research project, we looked at suicide prevention policies, campaigns and parliamentary records where suicide was discussed. In the second phase of the project, we want to share what we found, (which we will call 'data' or 'findings') with members of the public like you, in order to find out what you think about suicide, and the way it is dealt with in policy and by politicians. We are using different creative approaches in this part of the study to provide different ways of responding to and making sense of the topic of suicide.

Suicide, prisons and the police workshops: During our research it became clear that suicide within prisons and the police response to suicides, attempted suicides and mental health crises out in the community was a matter of concern for politicians and suicide prevention policies. These are complex issues, and we want to show members of the public, like you, some of our findings in order to see what you think about it.

What is involved in taking part?

There will be 4 workshops, each lasting approximately 2 hours. The first workshop will be an introductory session (workshop 1), so you can get to know the other participants and you will be introduced to the data. We will have plenty of chance for discussion in all of our workshops. In the second and third workshops we will discuss suicide in prisons (workshop 2) and suicide and the police (workshop 3). We will then have a final workshop (workshop 4) where we will respond to and reflect upon what we have explored and discussed. You will be sent a detailed workshop programme in advance.

Throughout the workshops there will be chance for group discussion, individual reflection and some interactive and creative activities to help us think about the issues that arise. The activities are designed to allow you to be as creative as you wish and to express your thoughts and feelings in a way that feels most comfortable to you.

Materials needed for the workshops (such as pens, paper etc) will be provided at no cost to you, although if you would like to bring your own additional materials to use in the workshops you are welcome to do so (for example if you like painting, then you could bring your paint set). All workshops will be audio recorded.

Where will the workshops be held?

These workshops will be online, on Zoom.

Who can take part?

Any member of the public (over the age of 18) can take part in the workshops. You do not need to have personal experience of suicide to participate, just an openness to discussion. No prior experience of creative activities will be expected, and the activities will be accessible to everyone.

Confidentiality: will other people know that I took part?

Only the research team and other participants in your workshops will know that you have taken part. When we write or talk about the workshops in other places we will change people's names, and the name of any organisation involved. We would also ask that you respect other participants' privacy and do not talk about them in ways that could identify them to others.

However, in some cases we might 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 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.

What will happen with the results of this research?

The results of this study may be shared in different ways including, but not limited to, published academic works, project website, blog posts, exhibitions and presentations. All outputs from the research will be fully pseudonymised (meaning as far as possible we will change all names and identifying information).

If you would like, you can choose your own pseudonym (fake name) to be used in both the workshops and in outputs from the research, or if you prefer, we can select one for you. A document which keeps a record of pseudonyms will be stored in a password-protected computer file that will not be shared outside of the research team.

You can choose to keep any original creative work that you do in the workshops, although with your permission we will take copies of it, or you can choose to donate your work to the project. All creative

works will be attributed to your pseudonym (the fake name used to refer to you for the purposes of the research). You are welcome to share your creative works outside of the research project (for example, you may choose to post them on social media, enter them into exhibitions or competitions, or show them to friends or family), however we must warn you that doing so may compromise your anonymity as people may then be able to identify you as taking part in the research.

A summary of the findings from the study will be made available to participants who indicate they would like to receive this by email on or before December 2023.

When we write about the study we will use quotations from things that you and others say in the workshops. We will pseudonymise you, but there is a remote chance that people you know might recognise what you say.

What are the possible benefits of taking part in the research?

There are no direct benefits, but by sharing your experiences with us, you will be helping our research team to know more about public understandings of suicide and suicide prevention. The findings from the study will hopefully inform broader public debates about suicide. We hope that participating will be enjoyable for you, inspiring creative expressions and reflections and connecting you with others interested in the topics of suicide and suicide prevention.

What are the risks of taking part in the research?

Suicide can be a sensitive topic, and so discussing it may be upsetting. If at any point during the workshops you need a break or to leave the session you can do so. Your wellbeing is a top priority for staff working on the project. We welcome you sharing any concerns with us, and will try and help where possible and signpost you to services providing support where we cannot.

Do I have to take part?

Your participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw for up to six weeks after the workshop series is completed, without giving any reason, and without your legal rights being affected. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible.

Expenses and payments.

There are no payments for taking part in these workshops.

Who is organising and funding the research?

This research is being organised by the University of Edinburgh and the University of Lincoln and is being funded by the Leverhulme Trust.

Who has reviewed the study?

This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by the Counselling, Psychotherapy and Applied Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee at the University of Edinburgh.

How will we use information about you?

We will keep all information about you safe and secure. All data from the workshop (including the recordings of the workshops, researchers' notes, and either original work that you make during the

creative activities or copies of it that the researcher makes with your permission) will be referred to by a unique participant number or pseudonym rather than by name. All recordings will be typed out in full and then the recordings will be destroyed. We will write our reports in a way that aims, as far as possible, to ensure that no-one will know that you took part in the study.

Your data will only be viewed by the research team and an external transcription company (First Class Secretarial, who have a data sharing agreement with the University of Edinburgh). All electronic data will be stored on a password-protected computer file and all paper records will be stored in a locked filing cabinet. Your consent information will be kept separately from your responses in order to minimise risk.

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

You can find out more about how we use your information at <https://www.ed.ac.uk/records-management/privacy-notice-research> or by asking one of the research team. The University of Edinburgh is the sponsor for this study based in the UK. 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 identifiable information about you for 3 years and your pseudonymised data for a minimum of 5 years.

What if there is a problem?

If you have further queries or concerns, please contact the lead researchers Amy Chandler a.chandler@ed.ac.uk or Ana Jordan anaJordan@lincoln.ac.uk.

If you would like to discuss this study with someone independent of the study please contact Dr Marisa de Andrade, marisa.deandrade@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, M.Schwannauer@ed.ac.uk or Research Governance Team (cahss.res.ethics@ed.ac.uk)

You can also make complaints directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO is the independent authority upholding information rights for the UK. Their website is ico.org.uk and their telephone helpline number is 0303 123 1113.

Further information and contact details

Edinburgh	Lincoln
Hazel Marzetti: hazel.marzetti@ed.ac.uk	Alex Oaten: A0aten@lincoln.ac.uk
Amy Chandler: a.chandler@ed.ac.uk	Ana Jordan: anaJordan@lincoln.ac.uk

Support Organisations:

Samaritans – provides a 24 hour listening service for people of all ages (including children and young people), their helpline can be accessed by calling 116 123 or alternatively you can email jo@samaritans.org.

SHOUT – is a free, confidential, 24/7 text messaging support service for anyone who is struggling to cope, which can be accessed by texting the number: 85258.