**Participant Information Sheet – Young People**

**Study Title: How do young asylum seekers experience belonging in education?**

**Researchers: Jessica Clapham**

**ERGO number: 78294**

**Version 3:** 18.12.2022

**Why have I been invited to take part?**

You have been invited to take part in the research study stated above. It is important that you understand what the study will involve before you decide whether you would like to take part or not. Please read this information carefully and ask questions if you are unsure about anything or would like some more information. You may discuss whether to take part or not with others, but it is your decision whether to take part or not. If you are happy with all the information and would still like to participate you will be asked to either sign a consent form or be give voice-recorded consent verbally.

**What is the research about?**

I am a Trainee Educational Psychologist at the University of Southampton researching the impact that being an asylum seeker has on school belonging. I would like to ask some questions about your background, and your experience with education in the UK. This information should highlight some key areas that impact belongingness in school for asylum seeking students and help to improve these areas. This study is funded by the University of Southampton.

**Why have I been asked to participate?**

You have been asked to participate because you are a young asylum seeker currently living in the UK and attending a local school or have recently attended an educational setting, such as school.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

You will be invited to a meet with a researcher and up to 5 other asylum-seeking young people at your school/ youth club. This meeting will likely be held in December 2022 and will last for 90 minutes (1 and a half hours), with a 15-minute introduction and refreshment time before. In total you will be at the venue for 105 minutes (1 hour and 45 minutes). The meeting will involve a discussion based around your experiences at school in the UK. There will be a focus on your sense of belonging and how this may impact your well-being at school. This will involve you needing to reflect on your own experiences at school within the UK. The researcher will record the session using both a Dictaphone and Microsoft Teams with the microphone on, but camera turned off. These recordings will be deleted as soon as the focus group conversation has been transcribed.

Please rest assured that this research is not connected in any way to your asylum application, and /or any legal proceedings you may be part of. The conversations that we will have together will be purely for my study. I will not use your name, or other information that might identify you (unless you want me to). I will ask you to choose a pseudonym (any name that you like) and I will delete the recording as soon as I have written down the conversation (with this name you give me).

**Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

As a thank you for your time and effort, you will receive from me a £20 Love to Shop voucher, when the discussion comes to an end. The information that you will give through this conversation will help me to understand factors that impact school belonging for asylum seekers.

**Are there any risks involved?**

I am interested in learning about your educational experiences within the UK. There are no anticipated physical risks, however it is possible that some of the information shared by yourself or others in the focus group could cause uncomfortable emotions or memories. If you do experience any distress or discomfort from taking part please make the researcher aware or take yourself to the ‘coffee corner’ for some time out as needed. You will be able to leave the focus group or decline to discuss a certain topic at any time. You can also access support following your involvement either through the charity/organisation you are part of or at:

1. Mind UK – Mind are committed to supporting people who are refugees or asylum seekers in the UK. Our lines are open 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday (except for bank holidays) 0300 123 3393, [info@mind.org.uk Text: 86463](mailto:info@mind.org.uk%20Text:%2086463)
2. The Refugee Council in the UK is an organisation that provides support all over the UK. Please look at their website for more information: <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/get-support/services/>

1. You can also contact your doctor or GP surgery for support.

**Will my participation be confidential?**

All the information you provide will be anonymised in the research. You will be able to choose a pseudonym to be referred to in the research if you would like to, or you can be assigned one by the researchers randomly. Any other identifiable data will either be removed or changed. It is important to note that as focus groups are a discussion between yourself, the researcher, and up to 5 other asylum-seeking young people, the researcher cannot guarantee complete confidentiality of the information you provide. The research team and responsible members of the University of Southampton are the only people given access to your data.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, you do not have to take part if you don’t want to.

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

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw before or during the discussion without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected. You may also choose to withdraw your data up to one month following the discussion, however, at this stage the researcher is unable to guarantee any data provided will be fully removed due to the nature of focus groups making it difficult to identify which participant shared which information on the recording. If you change your mind and would like to withdraw, please contact the researcher at [j.l.clapham@soton.ac.uk](mailto:j.l.clapham@soton.ac.uk).

**What will happen to the results of the research?**

Your personal details will remain strictly confidential. The findings will be written up as part of a doctoral thesis and may be published in an academic journal and/or presented in academic fora. Research findings made available in any reports or publications will not include information that can directly identify you without your specific consent.

**Where can I get more information?**

For further information please contact the named researcher, Jessica Clapham ([j.l.clapham@soton.ac.uk](mailto:j.l.clapham@soton.ac.uk)) or my supervisors Jana Kreppner ([j.kreppner@soton.ac.uk](mailto:j.kreppner@soton.ac.uk)) or Julie Vullnetari ([j.vullnetari@soton.ac.uk](mailto:j.vullnetari@soton.ac.uk)).

**What happens if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions.

If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk).

**Data protection privacy notice**

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of research integrity. As a publicly-funded organisation, the University has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information about people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use information about you in the ways needed, and for the purposes specified, to conduct and complete the research project. Under data protection law, ‘Personal data means any information that relates to and is capable of identifying a living individual. The University’s data protection policy governing the use of personal data by the University can be found on its website (https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page).

This Participant Information Sheet tells you what data will be collected for this project and whether this includes any personal data. Please ask the research team if you have any questions or are unclear what data is being collected about you.

Our privacy notice for research participants provides more information on how the University of Southampton collects and uses your personal data when you take part in one of our research projects and can be found at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/ls/Public/Research%20and%20Integrity%20Privacy%20Notice/Privacy%20Notice%20for%20Research%20Participants.pdf>

Any personal data we collect in this study will be used only for the purposes of carrying out our research and will be handled according to the University’s policies in line with data protection law. If any personal data is used from which you can be identified directly, it will not be disclosed to anyone else without your consent unless the University of Southampton is required by law to disclose it.

Data protection law requires us to have a valid legal reason (‘lawful basis’) to process and use your Personal data. The lawful basis for processing personal information in this research study is for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. Personal data collected for research will not be used for any other purpose.

For the purposes of data protection law, the University of Southampton is the ‘Data Controller’ for this study, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Southampton will keep identifiable information about you for 10 years after the study has finished after which time any link between you and your information will be removed.

If you have any questions about how your personal data is used, or wish to exercise any of your rights, please consult the University’s data protection webpage (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>) where you can make a request using our online form. If you need further assistance, please contact the University’s Data Protection Officer ([data.protection@soton.ac.uk](mailto:data.protection@soton.ac.uk)).

Thank you for taking the time to read through this information sheet.