

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Welcome! Thank you for expressing interest in participating in this study. The survey should take about 15 minutes to complete. Below is some information about the researcher, the study and your participation.

Who am I?

My name is Toluwani Seidu, and I am a student in the Department of Psychology at the University of Bath. I am conducting this study as part of my MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology. My supervisor is Prof. Catherine Hamilton-Giachritsis.

What is this study about?

The proliferation of internet technologies and social media has created new opportunities for the sexual abuse of children. Through this study, we hope to gain a better understanding of child protection professionals' knowledge of and experience working with victims of online child sexual abuse.

Who can take part in the study?

You can take part in this study if you are a child protection professional (e.g., social worker, medical professional, counsellor/therapist, law enforcement such as the police or youth justice service or educator) **and** have direct experience (past and/or current) working with victims of online child sexual abuse

Are there any benefits to me taking part in this study?

You will be helping us add to the literature on online child sexual abuse. This study should also help you reflect on your own understanding of online child sexual abuse thus possibly enabling you to identify gaps in your knowledge. Moreover, this may enable professionals to better support the recovery of young people who have been victims

What will I be asked to do?

This study will be conducted online through a survey hosted on QuestionPro. You will be asked to answer questions about your knowledge of and experiences working with victims of online child sexual abuse.

What will happen to my data? / How can I withdraw from this study?

Your involvement in the study will remain anonymous. You will not be required to provide any personal information and your IP address will not be collected, therefore, it will not be possible to identify you by name or any other identifying information in any aspect of the data, documentation, or reporting of this research study. Due to this, you will not be able to withdraw your data **after** it has been submitted as it will not be traceable to you.

If you wish to withdraw your data **during** the study, you can simply close your browser, and all your data will be withdrawn. Alternatively, if you wish to stop the survey early but are happy for the data you have already provided to be used in the research, you will be given the opportunity to choose 'exit but include data provided to this point'.

Who Will Have Access to the Information that I Provide?

Only the research team at the University of Bath and an external collaborator (Dr. Eleni Romanou) will have access to the information that you provide. All records will be anonymous, and no personal information, including IP address and the location of the service you work at, will be collected.

What Will Happen to the Data Collected and Results of the Project?

Data from the study will be managed as per the University of Bath's Research Data policy and storage guidelines. No identifiable information will be recorded, and no link will be made between the consent form and research data.

Data will be kept on university-managed servers (H: or X: Drives) and temporarily on a personal laptop in folders that will be password-protected and encrypted. The anonymised data will also be held for 10 years, as is required.

If you consent, at the end of the project, the anonymous data will be archived in a suitable research data archive, where the data can be shared openly when applied for by other researchers. **Please be aware that you can choose to take part in the study, but not have your data included in the data repository – you will be asked for separate consent for this.**

The results of this project will be used to write an MSc dissertation and forms part of an academic qualification. The results of this project may also be presented at a conference or in a published paper. No individual will be identifiable.

University of Bath Privacy Notice

The University of Bath privacy notice can be found here: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/university-of-bath-privacy-notice-for-research-participants/>.

What Happens if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of the project you should ask to speak to a member of the research team who will do their best to answer any questions (see contact details below). If they are unable to resolve your concern or you wish to make a complaint regarding the project, please contact the Research Governance and Compliance Team at research-ethics@bath.ac.uk

What do I do if I have any more questions?

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you would like some more information.

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Contact Details of Researcher: tms67@bath.ac.uk

Name of Supervisor: Prof. Catherine Hamilton-Giachritsis

Contact Details of Supervisor: chg26@bath.ac.uk

Name of Collaborator: Dr. Eleni Romanou

Contact Details of Collaborator: eleni.romanou@nspcc.org.uk

Further Support

If this study has raised any concerns or caused you any distress, please seek further advice and support through the following organisations and helplines:

- **CEOP Education:** Resources, guidance and blogs to help protect children and young people from online child sexual abuse. Link: <https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/professionals/>
- **NAPAC:** You can receive support by calling the confidential support line on 0808 801 0331 or emailing support@napac.org.uk
- **NSPCC Helpline:** You can contact the Helpline by calling 0808 800 5000, emailing help@NSPCC.org.uk or [completing a report abuse online form](#).
- **Stop It Now!** Call 0808 1000 900 for advice, support and information. If you're not ready to speak to someone, you can also use the [live chat or secure email](#).