



Risks and challenges facing women's activism and community work in Northern Ireland

To whom it concerns,

In conjunction with WRDA, we are undertaking a research project assessing the challenges and risks that women experience as a result of engaging in advocacy, organisations, programmes and community level initiatives addressing the outcomes of the conflict and advancing community cohesion.

The research aims to examine and identify the risks and challenges that women face as a result of their activist work or roles in community development relating to the outcomes of the conflict. These include a broad range of challenges as you experience and define them yourself, and may include subtle or more tangible forms of pressure to withdraw your work, to risk of stigma or exclusion from your family and community, as well as those that are more overt, such as threats of violence or the disruption of activities. The purpose of the research is to understand the risks that women face in their work, how they manage those risks, and the effects it has on their work and personal lives.

We are looking to speak with a diverse range of women across different political, geographical, age and economic backgrounds to ensure that the research is informed by the voices of different women engaged in this kind of work and experiencing these kinds of challenges.

We would greatly appreciate your time and participation. If you are interested in speaking with us, please email us at the following address: researchingparticipation@gmail.com

Further clarifications can also be sought through that email or from Rachel Powell at WRDA.

In line with current regulations, interviews will be conducted online (via a platform such as Zoom) at a time convenient to you [TBD]. If you prefer to meet us in person we are happy to schedule those meetings in January, regulations permitting. We hope to schedule interviews over the next two months, as per your availability. You could expect questions and discussion focused on your role, whether and how you experience risk in your work and your views on the kinds of initiatives that are needed in response. Interviews will be fully confidential and anonymous.

The research project is funded by the [International Peace Institute](#) (IPI) in New York. The research is led by [Dr. Catherine Turner](#) of Durham University and [Dr. Aisling Swaine](#), of University College Dublin (click the links to learn more about us). The information from the interviews will be used to write a policy report for the IPI which will be disseminated globally and used to advocate for better support for women in roles like yours globally, nationally and locally. We will also write and publish academic articles that offer deeper analysis of the risks experienced by women in roles like yours.

Thank you once again for your interest and participation.

Catherine & Aisling

Dr Catherine Turner, Durham University
Professor Aisling Swaine, University College Dublin