Information Letter for Participants



My name is Milos Burzan, and I am a doctoral researcher at the Department of Sociology and School of Law at the University of Limerick. As part of my doctoral work, I am undertaking a research project titled ***Supporting Victims of Hate and Hostility: Intersectionality in victims’ experiences of hate incidents***. The partner organisation on this project is Doras. This project is funded by the European Union.

**WHAT IS THIS RESEARCH ABOUT?**

This research aims to understand how to better support LGBTQI+ in forced migration in Ireland who encounter hostility because of combined prejudices. It recognises that LGBTQI+ people in forced migration are vulnerable to hate and hostility that targets their sexual orientation, their gender identity, their migrant status, their nationality, their ethnicity and sometimes combinations of these.

That type of hostility is very difficult to cope with alone, but its complexity can make it difficult to know where to go for support.

This research will create a practical guide for support workers, based on feedback from you, about how to better support LGBTQI+ people in forced migration who may experience anti-refugee hostility, racism, homophobia, transphobia, biphobia and/or misogyny in combination.

If you are 18 years or older and are comfortable communicating through English[[1]](#footnote-1), I would like to learn from you.

**WHY AM I ASKED TO TAKE PART IN THIS RESEARCH?**

I have asked you to take part in this research because:

* You identify as one or more of the following: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, gender non-conforming, gender non-binary, questioning, queer or asexual person (LGBTQI+ persons)
* You are a 18+ person in forced migration (asylum seeker, refugee, subsidiary protection, permission to remain, temporary protection status)
* You experienced hate incidents while you were living in state-provided accommodation centres in Ireland (i.e. IPAS accommodation centres and emergency centres, Designated Accommodation Centres for Ukrainians)

Hate incidents may include, name calling, offensive jokes, offensive gestures, bullying, intimidation, harassment or bodily harm because of your identity. It can even be acts against your living space, or your property (for example, damaging or destroying your personal belongings, etc.).

**WHAT WILL TAKING PART IN THE RESEARCH INVOLVE?**

There are two ways that you can take part in the research – you can choose to talk to me in a group or one to one.

***Group Interview***

If you prefer to talk to me in a group, I will arrange a safe, private place at a time that works for you and the other group members. We will meet as a group of no more than 8 people, all from the LGBTQI+ people in forced migration. We will talk for about 1 hour.

***One to One Interview***

If you prefer to talk to me on your own, I will arrange a safe, private place at a time that works for you. We will meet one to one, but you can also bring a trusted person with you if that would make you more comfortable. Please note that the trusted person will be asked to sign a document asking them not to share the details of the interview (“confidentiality agreement”).

***Online interviews (one-to-one interviews)***

I can arrange to meet with you online. This means I can arrange video call or phone call. To get in touch through a video call, I will send you an online invitation using the Microsoft team application. You don’t need to have this application installed on your device; you can access Teams through your internet browser. You can choose to keep the camera off if that makes you feel more comfortable.

If you prefer, I can call you on the phone number you give me.

Please note that messenger apps such as Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Telegram or Viber will not be used for the online interview.

**WHAT WILL I ASK YOU?**

* I will ask about your views on the types of support needed by LGBTQI+ people in forced migration and who have experienced hostility or hate in Ireland
* I will ask if those supports are different for people who experience hostility towards more than one part of their identity.
* I will ask how support organisations, and the Irish justice system, provide the support that is needed.
* I will ask what could be done to improve the available supports.

You can choose not to answer **any** of the questions that I ask.

**WILL ANYONE KNOW WHAT I SAID?**

When I write my reports from this research, I may quote some of what I learned from you, but I guarantee that I will not use your name or any information that might identify you. This includes your name, where you live, your country of origin, your nationality, or anything else that might allow people to put your identity together with your words.

If you choose to take part in a one-to-one interview, only you and I will know what words in the research come from you. If you decide to bring a trusted person with you, they will know as well, and you need to decide whether you trust them with that knowledge.

If you choose to take part in the focus group interview, then everyone else in the group will be able to put your words together with your identity. I will ask everyone in the group not to share what was said, but I won’t be able to make any guarantees about what they say. If you are comfortable sharing your experiences with others, this may not bother you. If it does make you uncomfortable, please consider taking part in a one-to-one interview.

**WILL THE INTERVIEWS BE RECORDED?**

Both the focus group and the one-to-one interviews will be audio-recorded. This is only so that I can keep an accurate account of what was said.

Only the research team will have access to the interview recordings. This includes me, my supervisors, and the person who will type the interviews.

**HOW WILL MY PERSONAL INFORMATION BE KEPT?**

As the interviews are typed, all names of people and places and any other information that might identify individuals will be removed. Then I will destroy the recordings. The typed accounts will be held securely at the University of Limerick in such a way that it will not be possible to identify you. On the completion of the research project, the data will be retained on the UL digital server for 7 years.

**DO I HAVE TO TAKE PART IN THIS RESEARCH?**

No. It is entirely up to you whether you want to take part. If you decide not to take part nothing will change for you. Your decision not to participate will not affect the support you receive from the caseworker or the organisation which contacted you.

Your decision whether to participate or not will not affect your application for international application or your current international protection status.

Even if you say yes now, you can still withdraw from the research later.

If you say yes to taking part in the one-to-one interview, you can still leave the interview at any point and you can tell us to delete all of your information and remove you from the research up to 14 days after our interview.

If you take part in the focus group interview, you can leave the focus group at any point. Unfortunately, we won’t be able to delete the recording as it will also include the words of other people. In group recordings it is difficult to identify exactly who said what, so we can’t delete one person’s information.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY?**

What I learn with your help will be used to develop a toolkit to help organisations improve how they support LGBTQI+ people in forced migration with experiences of hostility or hate because of combined prejudices. The research findings will be shared globally through scientific articles, academic conferences, and reports.

**WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION?**

If you have any questions or would like more information about the project, please contact me or my supervisors.

Principal Investigator

Milos Burzan, E-mail: Milos.Burzan@ul.ie, Tel: +353 61 21 31 41

Project Supervisors

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You can also find more information on me and my research project on the following link: <https://nethate-itn.eu/project/esr4-milos-burzan/>

**HAS THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK APPROVED THIS RESEARCH?**

This research study has received Ethics approval from the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee (*approval number 2024\_06\_01\_AHSS*). If you have any concerns about this study or your participation and wish to contact an independent authority, you may contact:

Chairperson Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee

AHSS Faculty Office

University of Limerick

Tel: +353 61 202286

Email: FAHSSEthics@ul.ie

Your participation can make a difference. Can you help?

Milos Burzan (he/him)

**MCSA Early-Stage Researcher|PhD Candidate**

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1. By this, we mean that you can understand the main points of clear, standard communication on familiar topics; you can describe experiences, and briefly explain your opinions; and you can handle most everyday situations in English. For more information, please visit the [project webpage.](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ul.ie%2Fecsh%2Fvictim-support&data=05%7C02%7CMilos.Burzan%40ul.ie%7C1bc5e7abf36a41a2443a08dcf4fa7e04%7C0084b9243ab4411692519939f695e54c%7C0%7C0%7C638654603911002982%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HhRzVLV4RDJI9%2FtXco4cvm%2BK2TygH3qC%2BnpKs3mZFME%3D&reserved=0) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)