

Prospective Research Participant Information Sheet

Politics, International Relations and Philosophy

Royal Holloway, University of London

Project Title: Trans responses to the EHRC

Principal Investigator's name and email address: Dr Kat Gupta kat.gupta@rhul.ac.uk

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide to consent to take part it is important for you to understand why the research is taking place and what your participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask me if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Please consider carefully whether you wish to consent to take part.

Why is this research being conducted?

This research is being conducted to better understand how trans people and our supporters responded to the Equality and Human Rights Commission's 2025 public consultation on their proposed Code of Practice. This Code of Practice was widely understood to limit trans people's ability to work, access healthcare, take part in sports, and join girls, boys, women or men's groups. Trans people and supporters responded to this consultation in huge numbers.

I'm interested in how respondents to this consultation talked about ourselves, our relationships, our experiences and our lives.

This research is being carried out in collaboration with TransActual, a UK-wide trans advocacy group, and findings will inform their policy work.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You are invited to take part if you are a trans and/or non-binary person or an ally to trans people, you are over the age of 16, and you submitted a consultation response to the EHRC in 2025.

You do not need to consider yourself part of the trans community, an activist or an expert. If you're a trans person yourself, have a trans partner, are a parent of a trans child, have trans family, friends or colleagues, or are just someone who cares enough about trans inclusion to have written a response, I would like to hear from you.

Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you to decide whether you wish to take part or not. You can choose not to participate in this study without any consequences and without needing to give a reason. You can withdraw your data from my study at any time by contacting me at the above email address.

If you decide that you wish to withdraw your data from the project I will delete your consultation response from my dataset.

It may not be possible to withdraw your data once it has been published (for example, in an article or research paper), but I will do my best to remove any quoted material and will not include your data in future work.

What will my participation involve?

All you need to do is agree to me using your consultation response by signing a consent form. That's it!

If TransActual already hold a copy of your submission, you can just give permission for them to share it with me.

Alternatively, you can send a copy of your submission to me directly.

If you would like to take part, please email kat.gupta@rhul.ac.uk. I will then email you the consent form to fill out and send back.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks in taking part, and how might these be mitigated?

Re-visiting your responses to the EHRC may be distressing. Please do reach out to one or more of the following support lines if you need support with this:

- **Switchboard:** <https://switchboard.lgbt/> - national LGBTQIA+ support offering phone, online chat and email
- **Gendered Intelligence's Support Line:** <https://genderedintelligence.co.uk/services/66-support-line> - if you are waiting for gender-affirming care
- **Galop:** <https://www.galop.org.uk/helpline> - if you are worried about domestic abuse, hate crime, sexual violence or conversion therapy
- **Mermaids:** <https://mermaidsuk.org.uk/support-line/> - for young people under the age of 20 and their families

There is a potential risk that you could be identified from the material I quote in my published work. To mitigate this, I will anonymise names, places of work, study, worship and socialising, and places in submitted consultation responses. For example, Royal Holloway would become "a university in the University of London network", Egham would become "a town in Surrey" and Nether Wallop would become "a village in Hampshire". If you would like me to anonymise anything else or would prefer a different level of anonymisation (for example, to anonymise place to regions rather than counties), please let me know when you submit your response.

Are there any benefits in taking part?

While there are no immediate benefits for those people participating in the project, we hope this research will give us a better understanding of what our community is most concerned about, help trans people's voices continue to be heard, and help TransActual continue to work and campaign as effectively as possible.

Payments

There will be no payment for taking part in this study.

What information about me will be collected and why is the collection of this information relevant for achieving the research objectives?

The information that will be collected is your consultation response itself and whatever information you have included in it. This may include your name, age, your gender and sexuality, your relationships, your religion, if you identify as disabled, your location, and your place of work or study. As discussed above, I will anonymise names, location, and places of work, study, worship and socialising as a matter of course. I will also anonymise anything else if you request it.

This anonymised information will only be included in my writing if it gives important additional context. For example:

- “QUOTE” – university student, non-binary, London
- “one respondent, married to a trans woman, observes that...”
- “one local government employee noted...”
- “a Muslim trans man wrote...”

If you chose not to include this information in your consultation response, you will not be asked to provide it.

Identifiable data (including consent forms) will be stored on a secure University computer drive. It will be stored separately from anonymised data. Consultation responses containing identifiable data will be destroyed after two years.

Only the researcher will have access to the unanonymised research data. Authorised personnel, including members of the TransActual policy and research teams, may have access to the anonymised data.

I will not upload your responses to any generative AI service, including both cloud and local services. This includes but is not limited to ChatGPT, OpenAI, Copilot and Gemini.

The University may use relevant personal data collected during this project for additional research purposes, provided that these purposes are compatible with the original research aims, appropriate safeguards are applied, and the additional use is in the public interest.

How will the results of my participation be used? Will the research be published? Could I be identified from any publications or other research outputs?

The findings from the research may be shared in academic publications, conferences presentations, reports and policy materials used by TransActual and other trans advocacy organisations, websites and social media.

Only anonymised quotes without identifying information will be used in material for dissemination to reduce the risk of you being identified.

Who do I contact if I have a concern about the research or if I wish to complain?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please contact the primary researcher, Kat Gupta, via kat.gupta@rhul.ac.uk or Royal Holloway's Research Ethics Committee via ethics@rhul.ac.uk. If you wish to make a formal complaint, please email integrity@rhul.ac.uk.

Ethical Approval

This study has received ethics approval from Royal Holloway, University of London's Research Ethics Committee, with the approval ID of 1070.

Data protection

This research commits to abide by the Data Protection Act (2018).

Data Protection Statement

Important data protection information (UK GDPR, Data Protection Act 2018, and the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025).

Royal Holloway, University of London is the sponsor for this study and is based in the UK. We will use information from you to undertake this study and will act as the data controller, which means we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. Any data you provide during the study will be stored securely on servers located within the European Economic Area.

Royal Holloway is designated as a public authority and, in accordance with the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College Act 1985 and the Statutes which govern the University, we conduct research for the public benefit and in the public interest. We apply appropriate technical and organisational measures to prevent your personal data from being accidentally lost, used, accessed, altered, or disclosed in an unauthorised way, and we have procedures to respond to any suspected data breach, including notifying you and any applicable regulator where legally required.

To safeguard your privacy, we will use the minimum amount of personally identifiable information necessary. Certain authorised individuals from Royal Holloway may review research records to check the accuracy or integrity of the study.

Personal data collected for this study **may be used for further research purposes** that are compatible with the original aims of the study, provided appropriate safeguards are applied.

If the study is published, anonymised data may be shared with third parties or deposited in research repositories. People analysing the information will not be able to identify you.

You can find out more about your data protection rights on Royal Holloway's website. If you wish to exercise those rights, please contact **dataprotection@royalholloway.ac.uk**.

NB: You may retain this information sheet for reference and contact us with any queries.