

# Participant Information Sheet

**Title of the research project:** Whose Crisis? The Global Covid 19 Pandemic from the Perspective of Communities in Africa

**Researchers involved in the project:** Dr Mia Perry, Prof Jude Robinson, Prof Jo Sharp, Dr Zoe Strachan, Prof Sola Ajaayi; Prof Nicol Keith, Vanessa Duclos, and (Additional *name of country lead and RA to be inserted according to research lead in each country respectively*

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask the researchers if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take some time to decide whether you wish to take part.

Thank you for reading this.

**Purpose of the research**

The purpose of this study is to amplify the voices of under-represented and under-served communities in Africa to contribute to the understanding of the impacts and experience of this pandemic. The project aims to: 1. document and communicate the diverse lived experiences of, perspectives on, and responses to, COVID-19 in vulnerable communities in sub-Saharan Africa at a community and household level; and 2. share perspectives and experiences in participatory and culturally responsive ways to mobilise Northern and Southern expertise, resources and engagement.

The project aims to expose unseen aspects of living with COVID-19 by sharing representations and understandings of the social and cultural crisis generated by the pandemic in Africa. This will be made possible by the development of the public-facing SFA COVID-19 Global Voices Hub which will provide critical insights and inform and contribute to global responses including those related to health, policy, economics, and education. The work will support policy influencers and makers, educators, and community leaders to better serve communities in their areas.

The Whose Crisis? project is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) of the United Kingdom as part of the GCRF Urgency Response Pilot funding programme.

**Your participation**

The research team is inviting you to take part to this research because you are a community member in one of the communities that we are visiting. Your participation to the project is entirely voluntary and you have the right to withdraw at any time without prejudice for your job, studies or well-being and without providing a reason. Your participation will involve allowing the researchers to participate and document what you choose to share about your experience of the pandemic, through your chosen form (for example story, song, image). If you decide to withdraw from the research at any time, you are not required to also withdraw from the cultural practice.

**Confidentiality of collected data**

No personal data will be shared with a third party, and data will be anonymised before analysis by the team to ensure confidentiality unless you explicitly permit otherwise. This will be done by attributing an ID number to the record and any transcript of it, and participants. Only the Principal Investigator (Dr Mia Perry), the Project Manager (Ms Vanessa Duclos), and the Lead researcher (*Name to be inserted according to research lead in each country respectively)* will have access to the list of names and associated ID numbers. Data containing personal information will be encrypted and protected by password.

Please note that assurances on confidentiality will be strictly adhered to unless evidence of wrongdoing or potential harm is uncovered. In such cases the University may be obliged to contact relevant statutory bodies/agencies.

This project has been considered and approved by the College Research Ethics Committee in the University of Glasgow.

**Risks associated with your participation**

There are minimal ethical risks involved in this project. The research does not involve the participation of children or adults from vulnerable groups. Data will be generated using participatory methods chosen by you. Risks that may emerge include: 1. Your affiliation with a vulnerable group outside of the research team’s knowledge; or 2. You might feel vulnerable due to personal reflection on your experience with COVID 19. To mitigate these risks, the following actions will be taken: 1. You will be clearly presented with the voluntary nature of this research, frequently reminded of the objectives and outcomes, and of your option to withdraw from the process at any time without penalty or any impact on your ongoing work; 2. You will be made aware of available support for any feelings of unease, discomfort, or vulnerability that you may experience through the course of your participation in the research.

**Usage of the data**

During the research, the data generated will help inform the research objectives outlined above (please refer to the *Purpose of Research* section). The dissemination of the results from data analyses can take the form of images, video, narratives, and texts on the project website; peer-reviewed publications in journals; conference papers; blog posts; reports to funding bodies; policy briefs; and educational resources. Your name will never be disclosed without seeking your consent, for example if the research team wishes to include testimonies in project documents.

**Storage, archiving, sharing and re-use of data**

Any data/document sharing with project researchers will be made via Microsoft Teams, which is a secure file transfer software. During the project, data (interview and meeting records, transcripts, consent forms, etc.) will be stored on Microsoft Teams and encrypted hard drives. The Project Manager and Principal Investigator will be responsible for the data handling, storage and safety. Anonymised data will be uploaded on University of Glasgow OneDrive and Office 365 SharePoint protected by password so that the research team and can access it where required. At the end of the project, anonymised data will be deposited in the data repository of the University of Glasgow (Enlighten) for future use.

**Your access to the research findings and outcomes**

Your full access to the findings and documentations of this research will be facilitated through a public website <https://www.whosecrisis.org/>. In addition, the researchers will use their ongoing relationship with your community leaders to maintain communication, collaboration, and support with any direct outcomes or opportunities that emerge from the findings.

**Researcher contact details**

Dr Mia Perry

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**Complaint**

To pursue any complaint about the conduct of the research: contact the College of Social Sciences Ethics Officer, Dr Muir Houston, email: Muir.Houston@glasgow.ac.uk