

## **Participant Information Leaflet**

**Name of Study:** *Being LGBTQI+ in Ireland:* The national study of the mental health and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and intersex people in Ireland.

**Principal Investigator:** Professor Agnes Higgins (PI), School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin.

**Research team:** Dr. Jan de Vries, Dr. Louise Doyle, Dr. Mark Monahan, Ms. Thelma Begley, Dr. Rebecca Murphy, Dr. Brian Keogh, Dr. Karin O'Sullivan, Ms. Renee Molloy, Ms. Carmel Downes, Trinity College Dublin.

Thank you for taking time to read this. You are being invited to participate in a survey for a research study. One of the aims of this study is to examine the mental health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI+) people in Ireland by collecting information in a survey. We are contacting as many LGBTQI+ people across the Republic of Ireland as possible in the hopes of gathering as much information as possible.

Before you decide whether to participate, you need to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully. If there is anything that is not clear, or you would like more information about the study, please contact us via phone at 089 457 0387 or email at [BeingLGBTQI@tcd.ie](mailto:BeingLGBTQI@tcd.ie)

### **Part 1 – The Study**

#### **Why is this study being done?**

It is five years since we conducted the first national survey on the mental health and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI+) people in Ireland. This study will repeat this survey to assess changes that have happened in the last 5 years as well as ask new questions which we hope will inform policy, service provision, and legislation going forward.

#### **Why have I been invited to take part?**

You have been invited to take part as you clicked on a link on a website or email that directed you here. Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary so you do not have to participate if you do not wish. Once you submit your response, because the survey is anonymous, we will not be able to identify your response and remove it.

#### **How will the study be carried out?**

This study will use an online anonymous survey to ask you questions about your mental health and experiences as a LGBTQI+ person. The survey will take about 30-40 minutes

to complete, depending on how much time you give to writing on the free text questions. The survey will close on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

### **What will happen to the results of this study?**

After completing the study, the researchers may decide to present the findings to forums such as practitioners and LGBTQI+ groups or publish in peer-reviewed journals. The results will also be published as a report and key findings document.

### **Are there any benefits to taking part in this research?**

There are no direct benefits to you from participating in this study. We hope that information gained from you will help to inform policy, service provision, and legislation going forward.

### **Are there any risks to me or others if I take part?**

The survey contains sensitive questions about your experiences of mental health, including questions about depression, anxiety, stress, eating disorders, self-harm, suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts. These questions have the potential to provoke difficult emotions and memories. To minimise this potential, the survey will include warnings on the focus of the questions so as to provide you with an opportunity to skip sections that you may find upsetting. We also put a list of [Support Services](#) on our study website, so that you can seek out support should you need it.

## **Part 2 - Confidentiality**

Your survey response is completely anonymous, and will be combined with everyone else's, so there is no way anyone will know how you responded. We also ask that you **do not** write your name or anything that might identify you in any of the free text questions asked within the survey.

### **What are my rights?**

- Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. If you decide not to take part, your decision will not have any adverse consequences.
- You have a right to have all of your questions answered before deciding whether to take part in the study.

## **Part 3 – Costs, Funding and Approval**

### **Has this study been approved by a research ethics committee?**

This study has received ethical approval from the Faculty of Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee, Trinity College Dublin on 11-07-2022. Reports on this project will be submitted to the Research Ethics Committee on an annual basis until the project is completed.

**Who is organising and funding this study?**

This study is being conducted by Professor Agnes Higgins with a research team. The study is funded by the National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) & Social Inclusion, Health Service Executive (HSE) and the What Works and Dormant Accounts Fund, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth through Belong To.

**Is there any payment for taking part?**

No, you will not receive payment for taking part in this study.

**Part 4 – Further Information****Who should I contact for information or complaints?**

If you have any concerns or questions, you can contact:

1. Principal Investigator: Prof Agnes Higgins, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin, 24 D'Olier St., Dublin 2. Email: [ahiggins@tcd.ie](mailto:ahiggins@tcd.ie)
2. Data Protection Officer, Secretary's Office, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin 2, Ireland. Email: [dataprotection@tcd.ie](mailto:dataprotection@tcd.ie) Website: [www.tcd.ie/privacy](http://www.tcd.ie/privacy)

**Will I be contacted again?**

You will not be contacted directly by the research team at any point during this research study or after it.