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Our policies

Central University Research Ethics Committee Approval Reference: [R92950/RE004]

The 30 oral history interviews are due to be deposited with the British Library as a permanent public record – due to our partnership with National Life Stories. Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018, we are obliged to redact (but, importantly, not to permanently delete from the public record) any interview material that could cause 'substantial damage or distress' to a living identifiable individual (https://www.ohs.org.uk/gdpr-2/). This means that we may need to close parts of recordings and transcripts where a client, survivor, or a perpetrator who has not been criminally convicted, is mentioned, for their likely lifetimes, so that they are not identifiable. This approach also protects interviewees, interviewers, and the British Library from legal cases of defamation and libel once interview recordings, transcripts, and associated documentation are made public (https://www.ohs.org.uk/legal-and-ethical-advice/libel/). At the beginning of each interview, we will remind you that where such people mentioned during interviews are identifiable (e.g. they are named, or it is possible to identify them through 'jigsaw identification', such as their relationships to others mentioned during an interview) we may need to make redactions. We would aim to keep as much of the story as open as an interviewee wishes, without contravening GDPR, and would discuss this with you should it arise during your interview.

We also duties to abide by the University of Oxford's Equality Policy (https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/equality-policy#collapse1138396), and its Freedom of Speech Policy (https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/freedom-of-speech). The University recognises the right to freedom of expression, as exercised within the law. As such, we will not seek to censor the expression of views that we as project partners may not agree with, subject to any GDPR constraints. There may be cause to apply a content warning to some interview content of this nature, but this would be assessed on a case by case basis. We reserve the right to redact (but, importantly, not to delete) statements actively encouraging violence against any group from the public record. Where it is necessary to make a redaction, we would always seek to discuss this with you first.

If you agree to take part in an interview, we will remind you of this at the beginning of each session.

