

Sheffield Feminist Archive: Women in Lockdown Project

INFORMATION SHEET

You are invited to take part in an oral history project. Oral history is the recording of memories. It is the living history of everyone's unique life experiences.

Before you decide whether or not you wish to participate please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with friends and relatives, if you wish. Please ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

What is this project about?

We want to speak to women who live in Sheffield in order to collect and preserve their experiences of lockdown during the coronavirus pandemic. We are looking for women of all ages, races, and ethnicities to participate in our project, which aims to put the power into women's hands to record and amplify their voices and preserve their oral history during this world-historical moment.

Who is organising the interviews?

This project is organised by a group of volunteers called the Sheffield Feminist Archive. As a community archive, we work with Sheffield Archives to ensure that documents relating to Sheffield's feminist past and present are collected and preserved for future generations. Ultimately, the interviews and accounts will be recorded by you, but members of the archive will be on hand to offer any guidance.

Why am I being asked to take part?

We are asking women in Sheffield to take part in order to share your experiences and stories of lockdown during the pandemic. We would like to interview as wide a range of people as possible. Taking part is entirely voluntary and it is up to you to decide whether or not to participate. If you do decide to take part we ask that you keep this information sheet and you will also be asked to sign a consent form. You are free to withdraw at any time.

What will happen to me if I decide to take part?

If you decide to participate, you will be given an information pack which will include a list of questions and topics which you may or may not choose to cover. You should then either submit a recording lasting anywhere between 5-30 minutes, or a written account of no more than five pages, by the deadline of 25th June 2021. How and where you choose to document these accounts is up to you. On our website, you will find a series of training webinars on how to complete your account. We are also looking for pictures of objects, artefacts or materials that you have acquired, or relied on, as a result of the pandemic, and that might mean something to you. Throughout the project, we are going to display your recordings, accounts and artefacts on our website, making them accessible to all.

What are the possible risks of taking part?

Many people find discussing personal experiences interesting and are pleased to have had the opportunity to document their memories. However, sharing these experiences can be difficult. We at Sheffield Feminist Archive understand this and would encourage you to take regular breaks throughout the recording, if needed.

Where will the recording take place?

The recording will take place virtually, in a location chosen by you. When recording, it is best to choose a quiet location.

What will happen to my information?

After you submit your recording or written record it will be displayed on the Sheffield Feminist Archive website (www.sheffieldfeministarchive.wordpress.com) and promoted across social media outlets, such as Twitter (@ShefFemArchive), with your consent. Your submission may be stored in the Sheffield Feminist Archive collection at Sheffield Archives. This archive can be accessed by members of the public or researchers who want to find out about Sheffield's history. A copy will also be retained by the Sheffield Feminist Archive. Your personal information will only be accessed according to your wishes – you can choose to place limits on all or part of your interview being accessed.

If you disclose information that indicates you are likely to cause harm to another person or that someone is experiencing abuse, then we would inform the relevant authorities.

What should I do next?

If you wish to take part please contact sheffieldfeministarchive@gmail.com and we will put you in touch with the project coordinators.

Who should I contact if I have further questions?

You can contact Sheffield Feminist Archive via sheffieldfeministarchive@gmail.com