**Information Page**

Thank you for considering participating in this research project. My name is Erika Clark and I am conducting this study as part of my final year undergraduate project in Psychology at Nottingham Trent University. Before deciding whether you wish to take part in the questionnaire please read the following information carefully and feel free to contact me using the contact details found at the bottom of this page should you have any further questions.

**What is this study about?**

This study is looking into how people use different online eating disorder related support groups and their thoughts and feelings towards these groups.

**What questions will be asked in the questionnaire?**

The survey will ask about your health and eating habits, your eating disorder symptoms and your general wellbeing. It will also ask about your attitudes towards different online eating disorder support groups as well as your usage of these groups.

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

I am inviting people who are over 18 years old and participate in online eating disorder support groups to take part.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, participation in this study is voluntary. If after beginning the study you no longer wish to take part, you are able to stop answering questions at any point during the questionnaire. Additionally, if you wish to withdraw your data after completing the questionnaire you can do so by sending me an email to [N0626431@my.ntu.ac.uk](mailto:N0626431@my.ntu.ac.uk). In the email, please state the project title (The Role of Online Group Identity in Eating Disorder Recovery) and state your wish to have your data withdrawn from the study. You will also need to include the unique identifier that you will be asked to create at the beginning of the questionnaire. You will not be asked why you wish to withdraw your data and you can do so until 15th February 2018. Withdrawing your data via email may, however, compromise your anonymity if you choose to use your personal email address.

**What happens if I decide to take part?**

If you do decide to take part in the study please read this information sheet carefully. The next page will be a consent form where you will be asked to tick a box confirming that you are over 18, understand what this study is about and agree to take part in the research. After completing the consent form you will be taken to the questionnaire, which should take approximately 15 minutes to complete, however you may take as much time as you need to complete the questionnaire. There are no right or wrong answers and you do not have to answer any questions that you do not feel comfortable answering.

**How will you protect my confidentiality and anonymity?**

The information collected will be fully anonymous. Before the questionnaire begins, you will be asked to create a unique identifier for yourself and none of the data collected will allow anyone to identify who you are. The questionnaire data and results will be kept on a private, password-protected laptop in a password-protected folder that will only be accessible to my supervisor and myself.

**What are the potential benefits from taking part?**

Although there are no direct benefits to taking part in the study, I hope that you find the survey interesting and take satisfaction in knowing that the results of the study will be used to improve the understanding of online support services for those living with eating disorders. If you are an NTU Psychology student you will receive 2 SONA credits for taking part in this research study.

**What are the potential risks from taking part?**

The main risks in the study involve providing information you may feel uncomfortable sharing, however as outlined above, you do not have to answer any question you do not feel comfortable answering, are able to stop the questionnaire at any time and are able to withdraw your information from the study after completing the questionnaire until 15th February 2018. If you have received any SONA credits for taking part, you will not lose these credits if you choose to withdraw your data. Additionally, support information will be made available to you after the questionnaire in case any of the questions asked do prove to be upsetting to you.

**What will happen to the information I provide in this study?**

The information provided may be used in academic publications and a report of the findings of the study will be sent to Bodywhys and First Steps, however you will be fully unidentifiable. After completion of the study, data will be stored for 10 years, after which all information given will be destroyed.

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

The results of this study will be written up as part of my final year project. A report of the findings will be sent to Bodywhys and First Steps and the findings may be used within academic publications.

**How can I find out the results of the study?**

The results of this study can be made available to you via a report once the study is complete. For more information regarding the study or to get a copy of the results, please feel free to contact me.

**Contact details and further information**

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Student researcher

Erika Clark

Email: [N0626431@my.ntu.ac.uk](mailto:N0626431@my.ntu.ac.uk)

Project supervisor

Dr. Niamh McNamara

Email: [niamh.mcnamara@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:niamh.mcnamara@ntu.ac.uk)

Tel: 0115 848 4346

Address: Department of Psychology,

Nottingham Trent University,

50 Shakespeare Street,

Nottingham,

NG1 4FQ

United Kingdom