



Participant Leaflet

Exploring the Factors Leading Healthcare Professionals to Decline Participation
in Abortion Care in Ireland: an Interview Study

1. Introduction

We invite you to participate in an interview study exploring the perspectives of healthcare professionals who have chosen not to provide or participate in abortion services.

This study is led by University College Dublin, and is a collaboration between:

- Dr Camille Nadal – University College Dublin
- Dr Aoife Mullally – the Coombe Hospital
- Dr El Reid-Buckley – University College Dublin
- Ifeoma Njoku – University College Dublin
- Dr Sarah Foley – University College Cork
- Dr Kellie Morrissey – University College Cork
- Prof. Katie Siek – Indiana University

2. What is this research about?

This research aims to better understand the reasons why healthcare practitioners chose not to provide or participate in abortion services in Ireland, and how these reasons have evolved or remained the same since abortion care was integrated into the national healthcare system. We also aim to examine how differing views on abortion impact professional relationships among colleagues and interactions with patients. Finally, we are interested in non-providers' views on potential improvements to better support healthcare professionals with diverse positions on abortion care.

3. Why are we doing this research?

Previous research in Ireland has focused on the experiences of those who provide abortion services. This study creates a space for healthcare professionals who have chosen not to provide or participate in abortion services to share their perspectives and experiences.

4. How will your data be used?

The interview will be audio recorded and transcribed. All recordings and transcripts will be pseudonymised, and any information that could identify you will be removed. Anonymised quotes from the transcripts may be used in research publications or presentations.



5. What will happen if you decide to take part in this research study?

If you choose to take part, you will be contacted to schedule an interview with Dr Camille Nadal (the Principal Investigator) or Dr El Reid-Buckley (Postdoctoral Research Fellow). The interview will be conducted online and will last no longer than 45 minutes. At the beginning, you will be asked to read and sign an informed consent form. You will also be invited to complete a few optional demographic questions.

Once the recording begins, you will be asked about your reasons for not providing abortion services, how your views may have changed over time, your interactions with colleagues and patients seeking abortion, and your perspectives on potential improvements to better support healthcare professionals with diverse positions on abortion care. At the end of the interview, the recording will be stopped and you will have the opportunity to debrief with the researcher interviewer.

Once the study findings are written up, you will be contacted again and given the chance to review the results and provide feedback before publication. If you disagree with a finding directly related to your interview, this finding will be rephrased or removed as per your preference. If you disagree with findings that are not specifically related to your interview, you will be offered the opportunity to withdraw from the study. Should this be the case, your data will be erased and not be used in any publication or presentation.

6. What will happen if you decide not to take part?

Taking part in this study is entirely voluntary. If you choose not to participate, this will not affect you in any way. There are no consequences, and your decision will be fully respected.

7. How will we protect your privacy?

Your participation in this study will be kept strictly confidential and anonymous. Only Drs Nadal and Reid-Buckley will have access to participants' names; they will not be shared with anyone else, including the rest of the research team. All data will be stored securely, and no personally identifiable information will be shared or disclosed. If any identifiable information is mentioned during the interview, it will be removed from both the audio recording and the transcript.

8. What are the benefits of taking part in this research study?

By taking part, you will have the opportunity to share your views in a safe and respectful space. Your insights will help create a more balanced understanding of abortion service provision in Ireland, ensuring that the perspectives of healthcare professionals who do not provide these services are heard and valued.



9. What are the benefits to the researchers if I take part in this study?

By taking part in this research, you will help us gain a deeper understanding of the reasons healthcare professionals choose not to provide abortion services in Ireland. Your insights will enable us to identify ways to strengthen support and collaboration within healthcare teams. Ultimately, this research aims to promote a respectful, inclusive, and effective working environment for all professionals involved in, or impacted by, abortion service delivery.

10. What are the risks of taking part in this research study?

We do not anticipate any risks for participants in this study, as all participation will remain strictly confidential. We recognise that discussing abortion services may be a sensitive topic and will ensure the conversation remains respectful at all times. If you choose to participate, you are free to pause the interview or take a break whenever you wish.

11. Can I change my mind at any stage and withdraw from the study?

Yes, you are free to change your mind and withdraw from the study at any time, without giving a reason and without any negative consequences. If you decide to withdraw, any data collected from you will be securely deleted and will not be used in the study.

12. How will I find out what happens with this project?

At the end of the project, Dr Nadal will contact you to review the findings and offer you the opportunity to provide feedback before the paper is submitted for publication. A summary of the findings will also be available upon request. If you would like to receive this summary, please let us know (contact details below). The study's results may be published in academic journals or presented at conferences, but all information will be fully anonymised to protect your identity.

13. Contact details for further information

Principal Investigator:

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