



## Participant Information Leaflet

**Study Title:** Empowering Young Voices

**Investigator(s):** Dr Karen Simecek, University of Warwick and Dr Andrew Cooper, University of Warwick

### Introduction

You are invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide, you need to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take the time to read the following information carefully. Talk to others about the project if you wish.

Please ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

### Who is organising and funding the study?

This research project is being conducted by Dr Karen Simecek, Associate Professor at the University of Warwick and Dr Andrew Cooper, Assistant Professor at the University of Warwick in collaboration with Coventry Boys and Girls Club, Fridays and Positive Youth Foundation. This work is funded by Warwick Institute of Engagement and a grant from the British Academy and Leverhulme Trust.

### What is the study about?

Young people (13–24-year-olds) across the UK are increasingly turning to performance poetry as a mode of expression, inspired by poets such as Kae Tempest, George the Poet, and Amanda Gorman. While there is evidence of performance poetry playing a role in improving literacy, creativity and expression, there is little or no discussion of the power of performance poetry to enable marginalized young people to discover their voices in matters of social justice. To meet this need, our research will draw attention to the power of performance poetry in empowering young people who struggle to have their voices heard. In collaboration with leading performance poets, we will develop a workshop series and teaching resources to help young people from marginalized communities in Coventry to find their voice and to be empowered through the experience of having their voices heard.

### What would taking part involve?

In taking part, you will attend three workshops led by award-winning performance poets who will help you to develop skills in using your voice through writing and performing poetry. You will also be invited to submit your work to be showcased on the project website and perform your poem at an event at the Belgrade Theatre in central Coventry to an audience of friends, family and community leaders. Finally, you will be invited to share your reflections on your experience and share your thoughts on this project through a questionnaire.

### Do I have to take part?

No. Participation in the workshops is completely voluntary and choosing not to take part will not affect you in any way. You can also choose to withdraw your participation without giving a reason by contacting one of the research team. Further details about withdrawing from the study are provided later on in this document. Further, there is no obligation to complete the questionnaire.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part in this study?**

Finding out more about you, your voice and ways of using your voice. You may discover a love of poetry and produce work you are proud of. Each workshop will address a different skill and the workshop leaders (professional performance poets) will be on hand to coach you in producing your own work and gaining confidence in reading aloud.

### **What are the possible disadvantages, side effects or risks, of taking part in this study?**

There is a time commitment. There are three workshops (1.5 hrs each) and the final event will be 2 hrs in total. There is no expectation that you will do any work outside of the workshops, although we will provide you with further opportunities between the workshops to get support and feedback on the development of your work. It is completely your choice whether you want to submit your poem/s at the end of the workshop series and whether you want to take part in the final event. There will be at least two members of staff from the youth organisation (CBGC/Fridays) who will be able to offer you additional support.

### **Will my taking part be kept confidential?**

We will not record any information about your participation in the workshops series unless you wish to share your poetry on our website and/or at the Slam event. When publishing your poems, we will offer you support in polishing your final piece for sharing publicly. All responses to our questionnaire will be anonymous and any data we collect (such as email addresses) will be handled securely and not shared with any third party.

### **What will happen to the data collected about me?**

As a publicly-funded organisation, the University of Warwick have to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information from people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, such as this, we will use your data in the ways needed to conduct and analyse the research study.

We will be using information from you in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. We are committed to protecting the rights of individuals in line with data protection legislation. The University of Warwick will keep identifiable information about you for the sole purpose of communicating with you during the workshop series and final event (to keep you informed of any changes, etc) and for acknowledging you as the author of your work (unless you request to withdraw from the research project).

Research data (including your response to our questionnaire) will be **anonymised** as quickly as possible after data collection and it will not be possible to withdraw your data after this point (3 months after the workshop has taken place). All contact details collected (e.g. emails) will be used for the sole purpose of communicating with participants and deleted after 6 months after the final event. Any poems or videos of performances will be published on our project website (hosted by University of Warwick) and will be accessible for 5 years.

You can ask for any work you agree to publish with us to be withdrawn at any time within this period.

## **Data Sharing**

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. The University of Warwick has in place policies and procedures to keep your data safe.

This data may also be used for future research, including impact activities following review and approval by an independent Research Ethics Committee and subject to your consent at the outset of this research project.

For further information, please refer to the University of Warwick Research Privacy Notice which is available here: <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/idc/dataprotection/privacynotices/researchprivacynotice> or by contacting the Legal and Compliance Team at [GDPR@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:GDPR@warwick.ac.uk).

## **What will happen if I don't want to carry on being part of the study?**

Your participation is entirely voluntary, and a decision to withdraw participation from the study without giving a reason, will not affect you in any way.

You can withdraw your participation at any point during the workshop. Please let a member of the research team know that you are leaving.

You can withdraw your data after the workshop has taken place (e.g. record of your attendance, contribution to the workshops) by contacting Dr Karen Simecek (k.d.simecek@warwick.ac.uk). Please note that if you withdraw from the study, it will not be possible to withdraw this data after 3 months of the workshop taking place because after this point all data will have been anonymised. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible and keep the data secure in line with the University's Information and Data Compliance policies.

Any poems or audio/video of performances can be withdrawn at any point after publication by contacting Dr Karen Simecek (k.d.simecek@warwick.ac.uk).

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

The work you produce and responses to the questionnaire will be used to help us evaluate the potential for writing and performing poetry to empower young people. Comments arising from the questionnaire will be used as the foundation for a future research project on the philosophy of voice in poetry. We also anticipate drawing on this information in writing a journal article for a philosophy journal.

## **Who has reviewed the study?**

This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by the University of Warwick's Humanities and Social Science Research Ethics Committee (HSSREC): xxxx

## **Who should I contact if I want further information?**

Dr Karen Simecek k.d.simecek@warwick.ac.uk

## **Who should I contact if I wish to make a complaint?**

Any complaint about the way you have been dealt with during the study or any possible harm you might have suffered will be addressed. Please address your complaint to the person below, who is a senior University of Warwick official entirely independent of this

study:

**Head of Research Governance**

Research & Impact Services

University House

University of Warwick

Coventry

CV4 8UW

Email: [researchgovernance@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:researchgovernance@warwick.ac.uk)

Tel: 02476 575733

If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter: [DPO@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:DPO@warwick.ac.uk).

If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data in a way that is not lawful you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

**Thank you for taking the time to read this Participant Information Leaflet**