Participant Information Sheet for Informants

Title of Project: *Birthing at Europe's Crossroads: Perinatal experiences of Afghan women in Serbia*

This information sheet is for you to keep.

My name is Esther Sharma and I am carrying out research as part of my PhD at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. I would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Joining the study is entirely up to you. Before you decide, you need to understand why the research is being done and what is involved. I will go through this information sheet with you, and answer any questions you may have. Ask questions if anything you read is not clear or you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not to take part.

What is the purpose of the study?
I am researching the experiences of Afghan women who have been pregnant, given birth or have a newborn baby in Serbia. As part of this research, I would like to speak to those involved in providing health care or support to Afghan women in Serbia.

Why have I been asked to take part?
You have been invited because you are involved in providing health care or support to Afghan women in Serbia during pregnancy, birth or the immediate period after birth. We will discuss the study together and I will give you a copy of this information sheet.

What will happen to me if I take part?
The study involves being interviewed by me, using an interpreter if you want, talking about your experiences of your involvement with Afghan women during pregnancy, birth or the immediate period after birth. This interview will be arranged at a time and place convenient for you.

The interview will last about 45minutes, I might take some notes and the interviews will be audio recorded. If you do not want to be audio recorded, I will take notes during our interview instead. I am also conducted some follow-up interviews, which will be conducted within six months of the first interview. This will involve asking you some questions about how the situation has changed in for you and for your involvement with Afghan women, since the first interview. You can choose to either take part in just the initial interview, or take part in the initial and then the follow-up interview.

After the interview, everything you said will be typed out but all your details, or any information that would reveal who you are will be removed.

I will be interviewing about 10 people in Serbia who provide maternal health care or support to Afghan women during pregnancy, birth or the period soon after the birth. All of these interviews will be put together, along with other interviews I am conducting and used to:

1. Understand the experiences of Afghan women in Serbia, around the time of pregnancy and childbirth, and the provision of health care and support for women during pregnancy, birth and the immediate postnatal period.
2. Make recommendations for how maternity care can be improved
3. Write about the research study in reports or journals

Your personal information will not be included in any reports or journals and there will be no way that you can be identified from it. At the end of the project, all your personal information will be destroyed.

Do I have to take part?
No. It is totally up to you to decide to take part or not. If you don't want to take part, that's ok and it won't affect any health care or other support at all. You can also stop the interview at any point, and you can then tell me whether you want me to keep your interview recording or not. You can also choose not to answer questions that you don't feel comfortable with talking about. If you don't want to be included, you can contact me to tell me, and I will destroy your recording.

What are the possible risks and disadvantages?
There are no risks for you in taking part.

What are the possible benefits?
There are no benefits to you, in taking part. However, the results of this study may help to inform policy and good practice in the provision of maternal health care for forced migrant women in Serbia.

What will happen to information collected about me?
All information collected about you will be kept private. Only myself and the research team, who check that the study is being carried out properly, will be allowed to look at information about you. Information will include your name, ethnicity, number of children and contact details. I will keep all information about you safe and secure.

Your personal details, meaning your name and other identifiable information, will be kept in a different safe place to the other study information and will be destroyed at the end of the study. At the end of the project, the study data will be stored here: https://datacompass.lshtm.ac.uk/. The data will be made available to other researchers worldwide for research. Your personal information will not be included and there is no way that you can be identified.

Where can you find out more about how your information is used?
You can find out more about how we use your information

- At https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/files/research-participant-privacy-notice.pdf
- by asking one of the research team
- by sending an email to DPO@lshtm.ac.uk

Who is organising and funding this study?
I am not receiving external funding for this study and have full responsibility for the collection, storage and analysis of your data.

Who has reviewed this study?
This study has been looked at and approved by the Research Ethics Committee of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, to protect your interests. The University of Belgrade Ethics Committee has also reviewed the study and have agreed that it is okay for me to ask people to take part.

Do you have any questions? Would you like to participate in this study?
If "Yes", ask them if they would like to take time to think about the study and talk to family or friends. Then find a time to call them back to take informed consent as below to confirm that they agree with the statements that are read out and document oral consent.

If "No", thank them for their time.

A copy of this informed consent document to be offered to the participant

Informed Consent

You have been invited to participate in a research project "Birthing at Europe's Crossroads: Perinatal experiences of Afghan women in Serbia". You agree to participate in this research study in which you will be asked to take part in an interview about your experiences of working with or supporting Afghan women during pregnancy, birth or the postnatal period. You have understood the previous information I have given you. You have had the opportunity to ask questions about it and any questions you have asked have been answered to your satisfaction. You consent voluntarily to participate in this study.

Do you agree with the above statements?	☐ YES	☐ NO
Do you voluntarily agree to participate in this study?	☐ YES	☐ NO
Are you happy for the interview to be audio recorded?	☐ YES	☐ NO
Do you agree to be contacted for a follow-up interview?	☐ YES	☐ NO

Print Full Name of Participant _____
Date (DD/MMM/YY) _____

Send the following contact details by SMS to the participant – if consented to participate:
1. Esther Sharma, PhD researcher, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine +44 7812 136035
2. Vesna Bjegovic, supervisor, University of Belgrade +38 1113 636300

Statement by the researcher
I have accurately read and explained to the best of my ability, the informed consent sheet to the potential participant. I ensured that he/she understands what is involved in participation and their right to withdraw at any time without giving a reason and that this would not affect their treatment.

I confirm that the potential participant was given an opportunity to ask questions about the study, and all questions asked have been answered correctly to the best of my ability. I confirm that the individual has not been coerced into giving consent, and the consent has been given freely and voluntarily.

Print Name of Researcher/person taking the consent _____

Signature of Researcher /person taking the consent _____
Date (DD/MMM/YY) _____

A copy of this informed consent document to be offered to the participant