

## **Exploring perspectives around gender identity assessment**

It is not uncommon that trans and gender non-conforming individuals have to undergo some sort of assessment about their gender identity. For example, when they want their gender to be legally recognised or when they need to access certain treatments. In recent years, this practice has become more and more debated.

However, research on this issue is very limited and the voices of trans and gender non-conforming individuals is nearly completely missing in the scientific discourse. This study aims to obtain your views about areas of appropriate and inappropriate conduct, your past experiences, and about suggestions for improvement. This survey is part of a multi-study project aiming to extend the general guidelines by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) regarding the assessment process with trans individuals and to inform best care.

### **What is the purpose of the study? Who should take part?**

The opinions and experiences of trans and gender non-conforming individuals must be reflected, when discussing questions such as:

- How should gender identity assessment look like to be respectful?
- When is such an assessment appropriate and when is it inappropriate?
- What are common issues and what can be improved?

You can participate and share your insights, if you meet all of the following criteria:

- (a) you are trans or gender non-conforming,
- (b) you are of legal age in your country,
- (c) you have been part any form of gender identity assessment (but not in the past 5 years),
- and (d) you should not be currently in a treatment that is linked to the assessment that is discussed in this survey.

Please also note that I am not going to ask you any questions that would include identifiable information (e.g., names, organisations, or locations). The survey is totally anonymous, voluntarily, and you can withdraw your responses at any point before you submit them.

### **What does taking part in the study involve?**

The online questionnaire is an open exploration about your experiences with past assessments about your gender identity. This includes some general questions, where I will ask you to rate certain aspects of the process and all you need to do is click. Other questions might be a bit more in-depth and require that you write down a response. However, how much you want to share is entirely up to you; the responses can be a text or just brief bullet points. Every shared experience is extremely valuable for this project. Overall, the questionnaire should take between 10 to 20 minutes.

### **Who do I contact if I have any questions?**

If you have any questions about the study, please feel free to contact me (SHenrich@uclan.ac.uk). If you have any concerns or complaints about the study you may

contact the University Officer for Ethics at the University of Central Lancashire (OfficerForEthics@uclan.ac.uk). Please provide them with the name of the study (exploration of perspectives around gender identity assessment) and the lead researcher's name (Sören Henrich).