

The Women of Ireland Project

Connecting Ireland's past to the lived experiences of today's Women of Ireland

This study has been prompted by the researcher's (Dr. Belinda Vigors) curiosity about how Ireland's culture, history, social norms and social structures have influenced her worldviews, experiences and the way in which she approaches the world as a woman. She wants to explore this with other women who have grown up or lived in Ireland, experienced Irish culture or identify as Irish.

The purpose of this research is to better understand what may be unique or specific to the experience of being a woman of Ireland and how Ireland's past may have influenced or shaped the women of Ireland today. To achieve this, the study will:

- I. Interview women of Ireland to collect their stories, perspectives, experiences, insights and opinions on what is like to be a woman of Ireland today.
- II. Collectively analyse interviews with participants to discover shared experiences, opinions, views and perspectives.
- III. Review and examine existing literature, academic research and historical texts on the role, experiences, treatment, activities and views of women of Ireland in the past.
- IV. Connect the findings of the interview study to the review of the historical literature to highlight areas where the women of Ireland today, may be impacted by the past.

It is being carried out by Dr. Belinda Vigors, a qualitative social scientist and Irish woman. This is a personal research project for her, carried out in her own personal time and is not affiliated to any research organisations or funding bodies.

If you choose to take part in this study, it will involve participating in a confidential research interview with Belinda, either virtually (e.g. by Zoom), by phone or in-person (not likely with Covid-19!). **The interview is expected to take at least one hour** but may be longer (e.g. two hours).

The interview will have an open format, where Belinda will ask you to discuss your perspectives on themes relevant to the research aims of this study. A 'life history' approach known as 'biographical narrative interviewing' will be used to explore your life story and your experiences as a 'woman of Ireland' or someone who has been impacted by 'women of Ireland'. You will be free to raise any additional points you consider relevant and would like to discuss.

You do not have to answer particular questions if you do not want to and can ask to end the interview at any time. **You can decide to stop being a part of this study at any time without any explanation.** You can ask, at any time, for the data you have supplied up to that point to be discarded and not used in the study.

The interview will be recorded and the audio later transcribed in full to enable accurate analysis and reporting. If you do not wish to be recorded, please let Belinda know at the start of the interview

How will the interview data be used? The interview data will be analysed in aggregate (i.e. all participants together) and all participants will be anonymised within the findings for inclusion in:

- The writing of a book, which combines the interview findings with a review of the historical and existing literature.

Things you say may be quoted verbatim e.g. "When I was 12 I moved school and this really affected me" in the writing of the book. This is done to ensure the perspectives of participants are shared fully. However, your name or

identifying information will never be used here – a pseudonym will be used instead, unless you expressly wish for your first name to be used.

In addition, the researcher (Belinda) would also like to document the perspectives of the individual women who take part and share this on public platforms. If you would like and with your permission, you also have the option for your interview insights to be reported individually (i.e. in a journalistic style) and for you to be referred to in this by name / initial / pseudonym / anonymously in:

- Instagram posts on [@womenofirelandproject](#)
- Blog posts on www.womenofirelandproject.blog

If you need more information or have any questions please get in touch with Belinda Vigors at vigorsbelinda@gmail.com or discuss any questions with her before the start of the interview.

By signing the below you agree that:

- You are aged over 18 years of age
- You have read and understood the information provided above
- Any questions you have about participation in this study have been answered satisfactorily
- You are aware that you can ask to be removed from this study at any time by contacting the researcher at the email provided above
- You are happy for what you discuss during interview to be used in publication (e.g. a book, academic papers, media articles), which can include the verbatim quoting of what you say in interview.
- You are taking part in this study voluntarily

Name (please print): _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Would you also like to contribute to the 'Women of Ireland Project' as an individual by being featured in a blog post or on social media?

Yes No

If yes to the above, how would you like to be referred to?

By first name

By pseudonym (please state) _____

By initial (please state) _____

Anonymous:

Would you also be happy to contribute an image of yourself to be included in a blog/social media post?

Yes No

Signed: _____

Date: _____