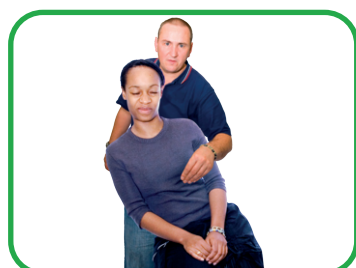


Research to find out the support needs of disabled rape victim-survivors



What this research is about:

We want to talk to disabled adult victims and survivors of rape or sexual violence.

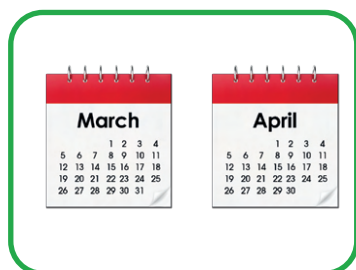


A disabled adult rape victim-survivor is a disabled person who is age 16 or over and who has experienced rape and/or sexual violence and/or sexual abuse.



We want to find out:

What do rape victims want from services that support them in terms of content, delivery format and service?



We want to talk to you between March and April 2022. We will speak to disabled victim survivors in interviews and focus groups.



About us

We are a team of disabled and non-disabled researchers who are passionate about ending violence against disabled people.

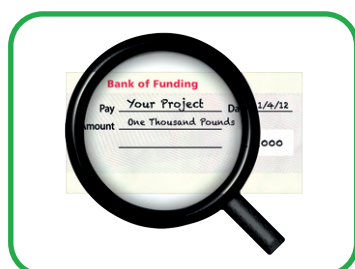
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All of us have experience of working or doing research with disabled victim-survivors.



We work for the University of Leeds, Liverpool Hope University, Stay Safe East (a user-led service for disabled victim-survivors) and SignHealth (a user-led service for Deaf victim-survivors).



We are being paid by the Ministry of Justice to do this research.



Why now?

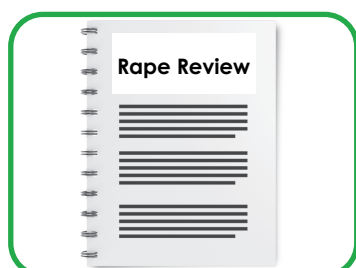


Maybe you have heard about the End-to-End Rape Review or about the government's tackling violence against women and girls plan.

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You may have seen recent news reports about violence against women and girls.



The Rape Review said that victim-survivors of rape are not always getting the support that they need.



Victim-survivors of rape include women, men and non-binary people.



The Ministry of Justice is currently doing a big survey with rape victim-survivors to understand their support needs.



But they know that this survey may not reach as many disabled victim-survivors as they had hoped. They know very little about the support needs of this group.

Research to find out the support needs of disabled rape victim-survivors



Because of this, they are paying us to do research with disabled victim-survivors.



Why do you want me to take part?

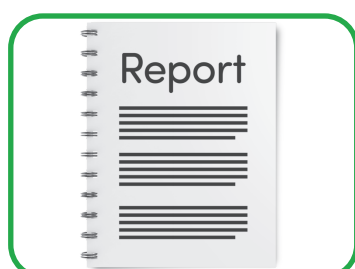
We do not know enough about the support needs of disabled adults after experiencing rape and/or sexual assault.



The only people who can tell us about this are disabled people themselves.



We are asking disabled adult rape victims to help us understand their support needs and how these can be met. The Ministry of Justice are paying us to look at how to make victim support services better.



We will write a report about the things disabled adult rape victim-survivors have said. You will be able to see this report on the Ministry of Justice website.

Research to find out the support needs of disabled rape victim-survivors

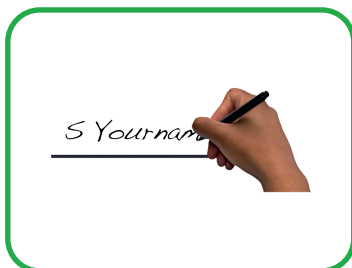


We want to tell other people what people like you have said to us. We want to make sure that your voice is being heard and that it helps make a difference to services in the future.



Do I have to take part?

No you do not have to take part. It is your choice whether you would like to take part in this research.



If you read this and want to take part, we will ask you to sign a sheet that checks your understanding of the research and what is involved.



You only have two weeks to change your mind after the interview.



This is because we have a short deadline for this piece of research and after two weeks your interview will be typed up and anonymised.

Research to find out the support needs of disabled rape victim-survivors



Anonymised means we won't be able to identify you in your interview within the report. This is called data.



What will happen to me if I take part?

You will take part in either a interview or focus group. These are explained below.



Interviews

You will talk to one of the researchers about your experiences of support services after rape and/or sexual assault.



This will be an interview that will take place on Zoom in a place that you feel safe and are able to talk about your experiences.



If you are not able to talk using Zoom, please let us know and we will talk about meeting in person, in a safe space.

Research to find out the support needs of disabled rape victim-survivors



This interview will last up to 90 minutes, but we can have breaks.

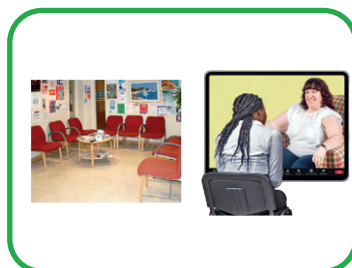


Focus groups

You will talk as part of a group of three to five disabled people.



Focus groups will be single sex only and be about your experiences of support services after rape and/or sexual assault.



This will be a focus group that will either take place in a private room at Stay Safe East, at another public venue or it will take place online via Zoom.



This focus group will last 90 minutes, but we can have breaks

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What do you want to ask me?

We will ask if you have used rape and/or sexual assault support services.



If you have, we will ask about your experience of using these services, what you knew about them and whether they helped you to cope and get better from your experiences.



We will also ask what extra support could meet your needs.



If you haven't used support services, we will ask about why you chose not to and what might help you to do this in the future.



When thinking about your experiences at each point of the journey we will be using the board game "Snakes and Ladders".

Research to find out the support needs of disabled rape victim-survivors



This will work in person and online.



You do not need to answer any questions that you do not want to. We will not ask directly about your experiences of rape and/or sexual abuse.

Will I be recorded?



Yes, your interview or focus group will be recorded on a protected device so no one else but the researchers can access the recording.



Conversations in English will be audio recorded. Those in British Sign Language will be video recorded.



The recordings of the interviews and focus groups will be kept in a secure and safe place.

Research to find out the support needs of disabled rape victim-survivors



They will be written up and the recordings will be deleted by September 2022 when this project ends.



Will taking part be good or bad for me?

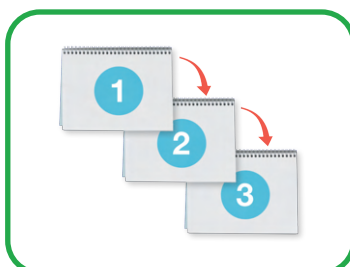
There are good and bad things that might happen if you take part.



By talking about your experiences, you might become upset or angry.



There is also a risk of re-traumatisation. However, personal experiences of violence will not be the focus of the interview.

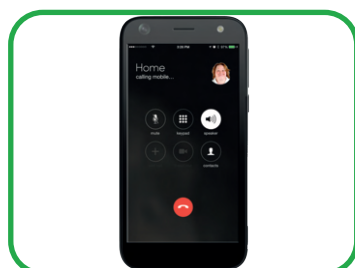


We are interested in talking to you about what happened next, when you asked for support (or not).

Research to find out the support needs of disabled rape victim-survivors



We will be supportive and do our best to make sure that you have a good experience.



After your interview, we will give you contact details for support in your local area.



If you feel the need to speak to someone about your experiences after the interview, one of the Stay Safe East counsellors will offer support in a one-off session on Zoom.



They can then help you think about your local support options.

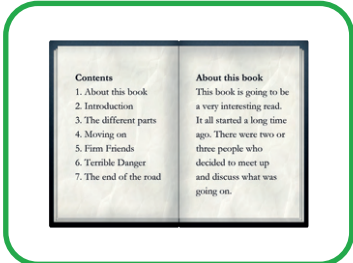


Taking part in this will also take up some of your time. To say thank you for giving up your time, we will give you a £30 shopping voucher.

Research to find out the support needs of disabled rape victim-survivors



By telling us about your experiences, you are helping us to learn about how to create better support services for other disabled adult rape victims.



Will you tell other people what I say?

We will share your stories when writing our report and other documents and when presenting the research.



But, we will not use any of your personal information, such as your name and where you live when we share this research. This is to help protect your identity.



We follow the general data protection regulations (GDPR) and data protection guidelines. To make sure your information is kept safe and secure.



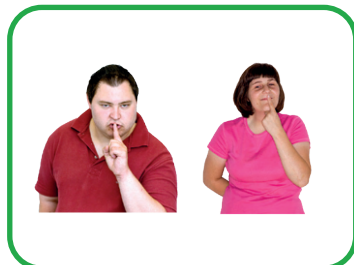
We will delete any personal information that can identify you by September 2022 when this project ends.

Research to find out the support needs of disabled rape victim-survivors



More information for focus groups

By taking part in a focus group, you will also be telling other disabled people about your experiences.



Everyone who attended the group will be told to keep what was said in the group confidential. Remember confidential means keeping things private.



We will respect your confidentiality.



However, in some rare cases we may have to share some things that you will say with other professionals.



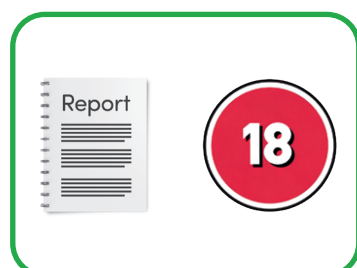
If we need to do this, we will tell you we are doing it.

Research to find out the support needs of disabled rape victim-survivors



It is a legal requirement:

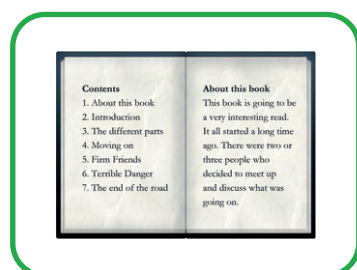
- To report new disclosures if the person disclosing admits to having committed a crime



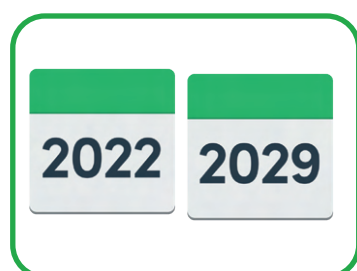
- To report concerns about anyone under the age of 18 being at risk of harm



- To follow the safeguarding principles outlined in the Care Act 2014 if a disabled person discloses ongoing cases of sexual assault or rape



What will happen to the data (information) after the project ends?



The research team will keep the anonymised data (interview and focus group information and electronic copies of the artwork) for up to seven years after the project end date, until the end of August 2029.

Research to find out the support needs of disabled rape victim-survivors



This will be kept safe and in a private place. Only Andrea, Leah, Ruth and Abigail who are the researchers will be able to see this. (Please see our contact details at the end of the form).



We want to save the information (data) to be able to write articles or journals that will be made public and give presentations about the things people have said to us.



We want to save the information (data) to tell more people about the experiences of people like you and about your ideas for making things better.



More information for service users of Stay Safe East

Some Stay Safe East volunteers will be doing interviews. Ruth Bashall is doing even more.



She is part of the team of researchers who will break down the research findings.

Research to find out the support needs of disabled rape victim-survivors



This means she will read some of the anonymised written interviews.



This means that Ruth may know who you are when reading the information. She will not tell anyone who you are, and she will keep what you have said private.



If you are a Stay Safe East service user, you can choose to be interviewed by someone from Stay Safe East or by someone else.



If you choose to be interviewed by someone from Stay Safe East, please remember that the interview will be different to your usual involvement with Stay Safe East.

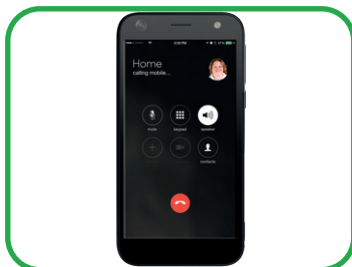


You have a right to refuse to answer questions or to change your mind about taking part.

Research to find out the support needs of disabled rape victim-survivors



This will not make any difference to the usual service you receive from Stay Safe East.



Who can I contact for more information?

Please contact either Andrea, Leah, Ruth or Abigail. See below.



Who is organising/paying for the research?

This research has been paid for by the Ministry of Justice.



The research team is led by Dr Andrea Hollomotz, who works at the University of Leeds.



A.Hollomotz@leeds.ac.uk

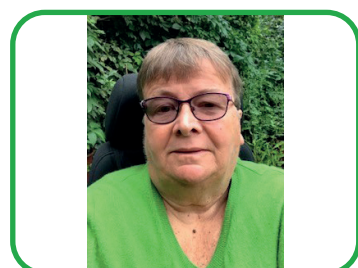
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Research to find out the support needs of disabled rape victim-survivors



Dr Leah Burch, from Liverpool Hope University

burchl@hope.ac.uk 0151 291 3550



Ruth Bashall, from Stay Safe East

ruth@staysafe-east.org.uk 020 8519 7241



Abigail Gorman, from SignHealth

agorman@signhealth.org.uk



This easy read was created by Speakup Self Advocacy. Graphics by Photosymbols February 2022

