**Informed Consent Form**

The person in charge of this study is Jane Smith. Ms. Smith is a student at Eastern Michigan University. Her faculty adviser is Dr. John Doe. Throughout this form, this person will be referred to as the “investigator.”

Project Title: Lived Experiences of Transgender Individuals

Principal Investigator: Jane Smith, Graduate Student

Faculty Advisor: John Doe, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology

**Invitation to participate in research**

You are invited to participate in a research study. In order to participate, you must identify as transgender. Participation in research is voluntary. Please ask any questions you have about participation in this study

**Important information about this study**

* The purpose of the study is to study the lived experiences of transgender individuals.
* Participation in this study involves a 45-minute online questionnaire and a two-hour focus group.
* Risks of this study include a potential loss of confidentiality.
* The investigator will protect your confidentiality by not collecting identifiable information in the surveys and by only using first names in the focus group sessions.
* Participation in this research is voluntary. You do not have to participate, and if you decide to participate, you can stop at any time.

**What is this study about?**

The purpose of the study is to learn more about the lived experiences of transgender individuals.

**What will happen if I participate in this study?**

Participation in this study involves

* Completing a series of online questionnaires. It should not take longer than 45 minutes to complete the questionnaires. The questionnaires ask about demographic information as well as information about health, sexual history, and about interpersonal interactions.
* Attending a focus group lasting approximately 2 hours. The focus group will involve up to 6 research participants and the investigator. You are asked to only use your first name in the focus group.

We would like to audio record you for this study. If you are audio recorded, it will be possible to identify you through your voice. If you do not want to be audio recorded, you cannot participate in the focus group portion of the study, but you can still complete the online questionnaires.

**What are the expected risks for participation?**

The primary risk of participation in this study is a potential loss of confidentiality.

Some of the survey and focus group questions are personal in nature and may make you feel uncomfortable. You do not have to answer any questions that make you uncomfortable or that you do not want to answer. If you are upset, please inform the investigator immediately.

**Are there any benefits to participating?**

You will not directly benefit from participating in this research.

Benefits to society include further understanding of the experiences of transgender individuals.

**How will my information be kept confidential?**

We plan to publish the results of this study. We will not publish any information that can identify you.

We will keep your information confidential by not collecting any identifiable information in the online questionnaires and only using first names during the focus group. The audio recordings will be transcribed within 72 hours of the focus group and then immediately destroyed. Your name will be changed in transcribing the audio recordings, at which point we will not have any information that identifies you.

The questionnaire data and focus group transcripts will be stored in password-protected computer files, and audio recordings will be kept in a locked filing cabinet until they are destroyed.

We will make every effort to keep your information confidential, however, we cannot guarantee confidentiality. Other groups may have access to your research information for quality control or safety purposes. These groups include the University Human Subjects Review Committee, the Office of Research Development, the sponsor of the research, or federal and state agencies that oversee the review of research, including the Office for Human Research Protections and the Food and Drug Administration. The University Human Subjects Review Committee reviews research for the safety and protection of people who participate in research studies

If, during your participation in this study, we have reason to believe that elder abuse or child abuse is occurring, or if we have reason to believe that you are at risk for being suicidal or otherwise harming yourself, we must report this to authorities as required by law. We will make every effort to keep your research information confidential. However, it may be possible that we have to release your research information. If this were to occur, we would not be able to protect your confidentiality.

The investigators will ask you and the other people in the group to use only first names during the focus group session. The investigators will also ask you not to tell anyone outside of the group about anything that was said during the group session. However, we cannot guarantee that everyone will keep the discussions private.

**Storing study information for future use**

We will store your information to study in the future. Your information will be labeled with a code and not your name. Your information will be stored in a password-protected or locked file.

We may share your information with other researchers without asking for your permission, but the shared information will never contain information that could identify you.

**Will I be paid for participation?**

You will be paid $25 for participating in the focus group. If you do not complete the focus group, you will be paid $12.50 for each hour of participation. You will not be paid for completing the online surveys.

**Study contact information**

If you have any questions about the research, you can contact the Principal Investigator, Jane Smith, at [smith@emich.edu](mailto:smith@emich.edu) or by phone at 734-487-0000. You can also contact Ms. Smith’s adviser, Dr. John Doe, at doe@emich.edu or by phone at 734-487-0101.

For questions about your rights as a research subject, contact the Eastern Michigan University Human Subjects Review Committee at [human.subjects@emich.edu](mailto:human.subjects@emich.edu) or by phone at 734-487-3090.

**Voluntary participation**

Participation in this research study is your choice. You may refuse to participate at any time, even after signing this form, with no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You may choose to leave the study at any time with no loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. If you leave the study, the information you provided will be kept confidential. You may request, in writing, that your identifiable information be destroyed. However, we cannot destroy any information that has already been published.

**Statement of Consent**

I have read this form. I have had an opportunity to ask questions and am satisfied with the answers I received. I give my consent to participate in this research study.

**Signatures**

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Name of Subject

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Signature of Subject Date

I have explained the research to the subject and answered all their questions. I will give a copy of the signed consent form to the subject.

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Name of Person Obtaining Consent

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Signature of Person Obtaining Consent Date