

Participant Information Sheet for asylum-seeking and refugee women- interview study

Study title:

Maternity care experiences of asylum-seeking and refugee women in Scotland (MACAWS).

Invitation

You are being invited to participate in an interview study, which is part of ongoing research study, called MACAWS. This study is part of a PhD at the University of Aberdeen. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others, such as your community midwife, GP, friends, and relatives, if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information (our contact details are at the end of this information sheet). Take time to decide whether you wish to take part.

What is the purpose of the study?

Being pregnant and asylum-seeking or a refugee in a new country can be a lot to take in. Here, in Scotland, we do not have enough information about maternity care experiences for women who have asylum-seeking or refugee status. A main aim of this research study is to understand maternity experiences of asylum-seeking and refugee women in Scotland. This study takes a closer look at what asylum-seeking women or refugee women think about maternity services in Scotland, and what we need to do to meet their needs. It will help future attempts to improve their experiences in maternity services in Scotland.

This information will be important for developing evidence and policies to support asylum-seeking and refugee women and to improve the maternity care experiences for other women in the UK.

Why have I been asked to take part?

You have been asked to take part in the study because you are or were an asylum-seeking or refugee woman, above 16 years old and have used maternity services in Scotland within the last 5 years. You may also have taken part in a survey as part of this study and agreed to leave your contact details to take part in an interview. We are interested in talking to you about your views and experiences with maternity care services in Scotland in more depth. Maternity services mean any services related to care during your pregnancy, labour, birth and after birth, including attending appointments, being in hospital or receiving care from your community midwife.

Do I have to take part?

No. It is completely up to you whether or not you decide to take part in an interview. You should not agree to take part in this until you have answers to any questions you may have. If you decide to participate you will be asked to either sign a consent form or give verbal consent to show that you have agreed to take part. You are free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason. A decision to not take part or to withdraw at any point will not impact on your legal rights or any current or future medical care that you may need.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you choose to take part, you will be invited to participate in an interview with the researcher. The interview will be recorded on an audio recorder to allow the researcher to make a transcript of the interview. The interview can be done in person or remotely via phone or online using Microsoft Teams. I will arrange a convenient time at a location of your choice to take part in the interview. You will be asked about your experiences of using maternity services in Scotland. I want to know what is important to you so the interview will be flexible. There are no right or wrong answers. You do not have to answer all the questions if you do not wish, you can ask the researcher to move on to the next question.

How long will my part in the study take?

Interviews will last approximately 30-60 minutes.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

It is unlikely that there will be any risks from taking part. However, there is the potential that you may find responding to some questions in the interview distressing or difficult. You will be asked to reflect on your maternity experiences and any challenges you have had or have been through. You are able to stop for a break at any time and you do not have to discuss anything you feel uncomfortable with. You also have the option to stop altogether, without providing an explanation. You will be given information to help you to access appropriate support and advice if you wish.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no direct benefits of taking part in the study. However, you will be able to talk about your experience of using maternity services in Scotland in detail. You will be able to discuss what you think is important and what you think needs to be improved. The findings of this research may inform efforts to support other asylum-seeking and refugee women navigating maternity services in the future. It will inform maternity care pathways to meet the needs of women in Scotland.

You will receive a £20 shopping voucher to thank you for taking part in this study.

What if something goes wrong?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researcher (phone 07964332901) or the lead supervisor Dr Mairead Black (email: mairead.black@abdn.ac.uk or on 01224 438437) who will do their best to resolve any issues you may have.

If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, please contact the University of Aberdeen Research Governance Team, by emailing: researchgovernance@abdn.ac.uk or by calling 01224 437220.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Yes. Your identity is totally confidential, and no identifying details will ever be made public. Your interview will be with the researcher, and no one will know you have done so. All data that is collected for analysis will remain anonymous. This means that it will not be possible to identify you from what you have said.

The researcher may need to report sensitive information you share if it indicates poor healthcare or situations in which you put yourself or others at risk. This could involve breaking your confidentiality to make the correct staff or committees aware. This only happens if you provide consent to the researcher to help you.

How will we use information about you?

We will need to use information from you for this research project. This information will include your initials, name and contact details. People will use this information to do the research or to check your records to make sure that the research is being done properly.

People who do not need to know who you are will not be able to see your name or contact details. Your data will have a code number instead. We will keep all information about you safe and secure.

Once we have finished the study, we will keep some of the data so we can check the results. We will write our reports in a way that no-one can work out that you took part in the study.

What are your choices about how your information is used?

- You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason, but we will keep information about you that we already have.
- We need to manage your records in specific ways for the research to be reliable. This means that we won't be able to let you see or change the data we hold about you.

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

You can find out more about how we use your information:

- by asking one of the research team
- by sending an email to dpa@abdn.ac.uk or
- by ringing us on 01224 272596.
- at www.abdn.ac.uk/about/privacy/

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The results of the study will be written up as part of a doctoral thesis (PhD). The results of the study will be submitted for publication in relevant professional and academic journals and may be included in future research funding applications. A summary of the results will be made available in a format appropriate to the general public, in English and Arabic versions, and will be posted on the study website. (Please note that this will not be available for the next 24 months or so). The researcher will also be presenting a summary of the results at a variety of conferences and meetings.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The study is being sponsored by the University of Aberdeen and organised and undertaken by the researcher, Heba Farajallah, under the guidance of the supervisory team. . Initially, the PhD project was self-funded. Subsequently, partial funding was secured from NHS Grampian, AZF Giles scholarship (University of Aberdeen Development Trust) and The Iolanthe Midwifery Trust to cover research costs and PhD fees.

Who has reviewed the study?

All research in the NHS is looked at by an independent group of people called a Research Ethics Committee to protect your rights and interests. This study has been approved and given a favourable opinion by the North West - Greater Manchester East Research Ethics Committee (REC reference: 23/NW/0316).

Who can I contact if I have any questions?

If you would like further information or would like to ask any questions, please get in touch with one of the research team using the following details:

Heba Farajallah (MACAWS researcher),

School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition
University of Aberdeen
Room 1019 Polwarth Building
Foresterhill
Aberdeen AB25 2ZD
email: h.farajallah.20@abdn.ac.uk,
Tel: 07399551289

Mairead Black (Chief investigator of MACAWS)

Senior Clinical Lecturer Aberdeen Centre for Women's Health Research (ACWHR)
University of Aberdeen
Aberdeen Maternity Hospital
Cornhill Road
Aberdeen AB25 2ZD
Email: mairead.black@abdn.ac.uk
Tel: 01224 438437

If you are interested in taking part, please get in touch with the researcher directly. Alternatively, If you heard about this study from your midwife, you can provide your contact details below and give them to your midwife. The researcher will contact you within 2-4 days of receiving your contact details to see if you would still like to participate. If you have not heard from the researcher by then, please feel free to contact them directly.

Thank you for reading this information and considering taking part in this study!

If you are interested in taking part in an individual interview, please leave your contact details below (either phone number or email address). This is entirely voluntary, and you can withdraw at any time, without providing an explanation.

Name: -----

Phone number

Email address

Language preferred: English ... Arabic ...

Best way to contact you: Email ... Telephone ...

For NHS staff receiving this, please forward this to the researcher, email:
h.farajallah.20@abdn.ac.uk.