

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM

Phase 2: Semi-structured interviews with women from Indian communities who are currently living in Australia who have experienced dowry abuse and their friends/family members who have witnessed dowry abuse

Project Title: Understanding perceptions and experiences of dowry and dowry abuse of women in Indian communities in Australia

Chief Investigator: Professor Jan Breckenridge

1. What is the research study about?

You are invited to join this study exploring perceptions and experiences of dowry, and where dowry practices might become abusive for women from Indian communities who currently live in Australia. This includes women currently living in Australia who were:

- born in India
- born in Australia with an Indian cultural background
- born in another country with an Indian cultural background

The experience of dowry could have happened in India, Australia, another country, or across many countries.

Examples of dowry abuse can include:

- Ongoing demands for dowry (e.g., money, gifts).
- Pressure to provide expensive gifts or large sums of money as part of dowry.
- Denigrating comments or harassment about the quantity or quality of dowry brought.
- Punishment for “insufficient” dowry.
- Physical, sexual, verbal, emotional or other abuse in retaliation for “insufficient” dowry or for not giving in to demands for dowry.
- Threats to withdraw sponsorship for visa, or actual withdrawal of sponsorship for visa, if dowry is not provided or if the woman does not ask her parents for more money or gifts.

This phase of the study – Phase 2 – involves semi-structured interviews. It explores the lived experiences of women, and the perceptions and experiences of their family and friends. This Participant Information Statement and Consent Form is for Phase 2 only.

Other phases of this project involve:

- an online survey of women from Indian communities currently living in Australia who have experienced dowry abuse, and of their friends and family members who have witnessed dowry abuse (Phase 1); and
- semi-structured interviews with service providers in Australia who support women who experience dowry abuse (Phase 3).

2. Who is conducting this research?

The study is being carried out by:

- Professor Jan Breckenridge (Chief Investigator), School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts, Design & Architecture, University of New South Wales (UNSW) Sydney.
- Emeritus Professor Louise Edwards (Co-Investigator), School of Humanities & Languages, Faculty of Arts, Design & Architecture, UNSW Sydney.
- Adjunct Professor Manjula O'Connor (Co-Investigator), School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts, Design & Architecture, UNSW Sydney.
- Ms Sara Singh (Student Investigator), School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts, Design & Architecture, UNSW Sydney.

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Research Funder: Ms Sara Singh has received a UNSW Scientia PhD Scholarship to undertake this project.

3. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

Before you decide to participate in these interviews, we need to ensure that it is ok for you to take part. We are recruiting people who meet the following criteria:

- A. Women who:
- (a) Are 18 years of age or older.
 - (b) Are currently living in Australia.
 - (c) Have an Indian cultural background.
 - (d) Identify as having experienced dowry abuse.

OR

- B. Friends or family members of a woman who:
- (a) Is 18 years of age or older.
 - (b) Is currently living in Australia.
 - (c) Is of an Indian cultural background.
 - (d) Has experienced dowry abuse.

AND

Friends and family members must also:

- (a) Be 18 years of age or older.
- (b) Have witnessed the dowry abuse.

You are not eligible to participate in these interviews if you:

- A. are currently at risk of violence, abuse, harm or severe distress from circumstances such as current domestic and family violence and the effects of trauma, current crisis, acute mental illness, or recent suicide attempt/suicidality.
- B. have not separated from the abusive partner and/or are living with family members who are also perpetrator(s) of the abuse.
- C. wish to complete the interview in relation to dowry abuse that is currently ongoing.
- D. are currently experiencing homelessness.
- E. have current involvement in court, tribunal or administrative proceedings related to the abuse or their relationship with a perpetrator(s) (e.g., ongoing child custody, family law, or immigration proceedings).

To participate in the interview over the phone or online via a video conferencing platform you must have access to a safe phone line or safe internet. You can request this interview mode and it may be necessary because of COVID-19 or other restrictions.

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4. Do I have to take part in this research study?

Participation in this research study is voluntary. If you do not want to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the study at any stage.

If you decide you want to take part in the research study, you will be asked to:

- Read the information carefully (ask questions if necessary – contact details for the research team are available below at Section 11).
- Answer some screening questions to ensure that it is okay for you take part in the study.
- Sign and return the consent form if you decide to participate in the study.
- Take a copy of this form with you to keep.

The screening questions ask questions to make sure that it is okay for you to take part in the study. You will be asked questions about whether you meet the criteria in Section 3 above. Ms Sara Singh will ask you the screening questions over the phone or email. If your answers to the questions show that you meet the criteria to take part in the study, then you will be able to participate. If your answers to the questions show that you cannot take part in the study, then you will not be able to participate.

5. What does participation in this research require, and are there any risks involved?

If you agree to participate you will be asked to:

- Participate in an interview with the Ms Sara Singh for about 90 minutes.
- Have a short phone call with her one week after the interview.
- Read the transcript of the interview and make any changes you would like to make (this is optional).

Interview: The interview will be held with the student investigator, Ms Sara Singh, who will ask you questions about your perceptions and experiences of dowry and dowry abuse. This will include questions about:

- If you are sharing your own experience of dowry abuse or someone else's.
- Where the dowry abuse happened (e.g. in Australia, overseas).
- The importance of dowry in the community.
- What you think about dowry as a custom.
- What you feel about the way dowry happens.
- Your experiences and thoughts about the dowry abuse.
- What experiences you or your friend or family member have had in getting support.

If you reside in Sydney and no COVID-19 restrictions exist, you will be given the option for the interviews to take place in-person, via phone or via a video conferencing platform (e.g. Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Skype). However, if you reside outside Sydney and/or there exist COVID-19 restrictions that prevent the Ms Sara Singh from conducting an in-person interviews with you, you will be given the option for the interview to take place either via phone or a video conferencing platform.

You are welcome to bring a support person to the interview with you.

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The research team requests your permission:

- To audio record the interview using a digital voice recorder.
- For the Ms Sara Singh to take written notes of the interview as it progresses.
- To share the audio recording of the interview with a professional transcriber. Recordings will only be made available to the transcriber after they have signed a confidentiality agreement with UNSW.

If you do not wish to be audio recorded but would like to participate in the interview, please advise the Ms Sara Singh prior to the interview, and only written notes will be taken.

Reimbursements: You will receive a \$30 Westfield voucher to reimburse you for any reasonable travel, parking, or other expenses associated with completing the interview.

Psychological distress: You may feel that some of the questions we ask are stressful or upsetting. If you do not wish to answer a question, you can skip it. You can also take a break at any time during the interview or you can stop the interview immediately. If you become distressed as a result of your participation, the research team can provide you with information about support services. A list of contactable support services is also included in Section 11.

Phone call: Ms Sara Singh would like to call you seven days after the interview to check that the interview has not caused you any ongoing distress. She will discuss this with you and make a time to call.

Disclosures about children at risk of harm: Please note that if you disclose to Ms Sara Singh information about a child or children at current risk of harm due to child abuse or neglect, Ms Sara Singh will share this information with the study's Chief Investigator (Professor Jan Breckenridge) and Co-Investigators (Emeritus Professor Louise Edwards and Adjunct Professor Manjula O'Connor), and will secure their advice about appropriate steps that may need to be taken to address this risk. Professor Jan Breckenridge and Adjunct Professor Manjula O'Connor are designated mandatory reporters who are required by law to report suspected child abuse and neglect to government authorities. Should you make a disclosure about a child or children at current risk of harm due to child abuse or neglect, the research team will work with you to ensure a constructive and inclusive referral process to child protection services if this is assessed from the information provided as being required. We will also provide you with a referral to community or professional services.

Reading the interview transcript: You will be given the option of reading, correcting and editing the transcript from the interview. You can decide to give no feedback or feedback by phone, email, skype or in-person.

6. What are the possible benefits to participation?

We hope this research will benefit people who have experienced dowry abuse. A better understanding of dowry, where dowry became abusive for women from Indian communities, and the types of services

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that are available to affected women will help develop better support and improve responses to dowry abuse in Australia.

7. What will happen to information about me?

By signing the consent form, you consent to the research team collecting and using information about you for the research study. The interview recording will be transcribed by a professional transcriber who has signed a confidentiality agreement with UNSW or Ms Sara Singh. All transcripts will be de-identified by a member of the research team and stored electronically on a UNSW secure OneDrive to which only members of the research team have access. Primary data will be kept separately from names, consent forms and other personal details.

The research team will store the data collected from you for this research project for a minimum of 7 years after the completion of the research.

Your information will only be used for this research project and will be used in a de-identified way. While de-identified quotes will be used as examples of themes developed from the study, no data will be presented in a case-study format.

- Information collected from you in an electronic format stored on a UNSW password protected OneDrive only accessible to the approved research investigators.
- Information collected from you in hard copy format will be stored in a locked filing cabinet within the Gendered Violence Research Network (GVRN), Level 1, John Goodsell Building, UNSW Sydney, High Street, Kensington 2052 – only the approved research investigators will have access to this information.
- Audio recordings will be stored on a UNSW password protected OneDrive only accessible to the approved research investigators. Audio recordings will also be made available to a professional transcriber. Recordings will only be made available to the transcriber after they have signed a confidentiality agreement with UNSW.

The information you provide is personal information for the purposes of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW). You have the right of access to personal information held about you by the University, the right to request correction and amendment of it, and the right to make a complaint about a breach of the Information Protection Principles as contained in the PPIP Act. Further information on how the University protects personal information is available in the [UNSW Privacy Management Plan](#).

8. How and when will I find out what the results of the research study are?

The research team intend to publish and/ report the results of the study in a variety of ways including that are publicly available. All Information will be published in a way that will not identify you.

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If you would like to receive a copy of the results you can let the research team know by inserting your email or mailing address in this consent form. We will only use these details to send you the results of the research. It is hoped that preliminary research findings will be available by late-2022.

9. What if I want to withdraw from the research study?

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. You can do so by completing the 'Withdrawal of Consent Form' which is provided at the end of this document or you can ring the research team and tell them you no longer want to participate. Your decision not to participate or to withdraw from the study will not affect your relationship with UNSW Sydney. If you decide to leave the research study, the researchers will not collect additional information from you and any information which you have provided for the purpose of this research study will be withdrawn.

10. What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the research study?

If you have a complaint regarding any aspect of the study or the way it is being conducted, please contact the UNSW Human Ethics Coordinator:

Complaints Contact

Position	UNSW Human Research Ethics Coordinator
Telephone	+ 61 2 9385 6222
Email	humanethics@unsw.edu.au
HC Reference Number	HC210585

11. What should I do if I have further questions about my involvement in the research study?

The person you contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you require further information regarding this study or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the study, you can contact the following member/s of the research team:

Research Team Contact Details

Name	Sara Singh
Position	PhD Candidate
Telephone	0 468 956 642
Email	sara.singh@unsw.edu.au

Chief Investigator

Name	Professor Jan Breckenridge
Position	Head of School, School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts, Design & Architecture, UNSW Sydney
Telephone	N/a
Email	j.breckenridge@unsw.edu.au

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Support services contact details

If at any stage during the study, you become distressed or require additional support from someone not involved in the research please call:

Name/Organisation	1800RESPECT – National sexual assault, domestic and family violence counselling service
Description	24 hours/7 days a week phone and online counselling support and information
Telephone	1800 737 732 NRS: 1800 555 677 Interpreter: 13 14 50
Website	https://www.1800respect.org.au/

Name/Organisation	Lifeline
Description	24 hours/7 days a week crisis support and suicide prevention service
Telephone	13 11 14
Website	https://www.lifeline.org.au/

Name/Organisation	NSW Domestic Violence Line
Description	24 hours/7 days a week helpline providing counselling and referrals to women experiencing domestic and family violence
Telephone	1800 65 64 63
Website	https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/domestic-violence/helpline

Name/Organisation	Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre (Victoria)
Description	24 hours/7 days a week family violence phone line providing support and referrals.
Telephone	1800 015 188
Website	https://safesteps.org.au/

Name/Organisation	Domestic Violence – Crisis Service (ACT)
Description	24 hours/7 days a week crisis intervention for anyone who is experiences or who has experienced domestic and family violence.
Telephone	02 6280 0900
Website	https://dvcs.org.au/

Name/Organisation	Domestic Violence Crisis Service (ACT)
Description	24 hours/7 days a week crisis intervention for anyone who is experiences or who has experienced domestic and family violence.
Telephone	02 6280 0900
Website	https://dvcs.org.au/

Name/Organisation	DV Connect Womensline (Queensland)
Description	24 hours/7 days a week telephone crisis counselling and support for individuals identifying as female who are experiencing domestic and family violence
Telephone	1800 811 811

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Website	https://www.dvconnect.org/womensline/
Name/Organisation	DV Connect Mensline (Queensland)
Description	24 hours/7 days a week telephone crisis counselling and support for individuals identifying as male who are experiencing domestic and family violence
Telephone	1800 600 636
Website	https://www.dvconnect.org/mensline/
Name/Organisation	Domestic Violence Crisis Line (South Australia)
Description	24 hours/7 days a week telephone line providing crisis counselling and support for individuals experiencing domestic violence.
Telephone	1800 800 098
Website	n/a
Name/Organisation	Family Violence Counselling and Support Service (Tasmania)
Description	Information, support and counselling for people who have been impacted by family violence. Weekdays: 9am – midnight Weekends and public holidays: 4pm – midnight
Telephone	1800 608 122
Website	n/a
Name/Organisation	Women's Domestic Violence Helpline (Western Australia)
Description	24-hour service providing support, information, and referrals for women experiencing domestic and family violence.
Telephone	1800 007 339
Website	https://www.wa.gov.au/service/community-services/community-support/womens-domestic-violence-helpline
Name/Organisation	Men's Domestic Violence Helpline (Western Australia)
Description	24-hour service providing information and support for men who have experienced domestic and family violence.
Telephone	1800 000 599
Website	https://www.wa.gov.au/service/community-services/community-support/mens-domestic-violence-helpline

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Consent Form – Participant providing own consent

Declaration by the participant

- I understand I am being asked to provide consent to participate in this research study;
- I have read the Participant Information Sheet, or someone has read it to me in a language that I understand;
- I understand the purposes, study tasks and risks of the research described in the study;
- Recordings: I understand that the research team will audio record the interviews; I agree to be recorded for this purpose.
- Sharing of audio recordings: I understand that the research team will share the audio recording of the interview with a professional transcriber; I agree for the audio recording of the interview to be shared for this purpose.
- Written notes: I understand that the research team will take written notes of the interview; I agree to have written notes of the interview to be taken for this purpose.
- I provide my consent for the information collected about me to be used for the purpose of this research study only.
- I have had an opportunity to ask questions and I am satisfied with the answers I have received;
- I freely agree to participate in this research study as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time during the study and withdrawal will not affect my relationship with any of the named organisations and/or research team members;
- I understand the research team will publish and/ report the results of the study in a variety of ways including that are publicly available;
- I would like to receive a copy of the study results via email or post, I have provided my details below and ask that they be used for this purpose only;
- I understand that I will be given a signed copy of this document to keep.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Participant Signature

Name of Participant (please print)	
Signature of Research Participant	
Date	

Declaration by Researcher*

- I have given a verbal explanation of the research study; its study activities and risks and I believe that the participant has understood that explanation.

Researcher Signature*

Name of Researcher (please print)	
Signature of Researcher	
Date	

***An appropriately qualified member of the research team must provide the explanation of, and information concerning the research study.**

Note: All parties signing the consent section must date their own signature.

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Form for Withdrawal of Participation

I wish to **WITHDRAW** my consent to participate in this Phase of the research study described above and understand that such withdrawal **WILL NOT** affect my relationship with The University of New South Wales. In withdrawing my consent, I would like any information which I have provided for the purpose of this research study withdrawn.

Participant Name

Name of Participant (please type)	
Date	

The section for Withdrawal of Participation should be forwarded to:

CI Name:	Professor Jan Breckenridge
Email:	j.breckenridge@unsw.edu.au
Phone:	N/a
Postal Address:	Room 118, Level 1, Morven Brown Building UNSW Sydney, High Street Kensington NSW 2052 Australia