



INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

**Funding raised by
The National Lottery**
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



WYQS.CO.UK

ABOUT THE PROJECT

LGBTIQ+ heritage is held in personal memories and stories, ordinary objects like badges and t-shirts, artistic and cultural materials like art, fashion, literature, photographs, films and performance: all of these are connected to specific locations in West Yorkshire. This social history is relevant to a range of audiences: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer/Questioning (LGBTIQ+) people, their families, friends, and many others interested in counterculture and the struggle for equality.

With the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund (and strong partnerships with Leeds Museums and Galleries and the West Yorkshire Archive Service) West Yorkshire Queer Stories will collect, celebrate and preserve this vibrant heritage for future generations.

If you would like to get more involved in the project you can ask to be added to the email list and receive further updates. (WYQS will never share email addresses with any third parties.)

WHY HAVE I BEEN ASKED TO TAKE PART?

Each individual has a story to tell and experience to share with the wider community. With your help, the WYQS project can include untold stories from diverse communities, and explore the narratives of LGBTIQ+ people who face multiple forms of discrimination.

The project can help to promote awareness and understanding of LGBTIQ+ histories, culture, wellbeing and issues of equality throughout the region, while also celebrating the achievements and contributions made by these communities.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF TAKING PART?

It may be that as a result of your involvement you may make new connections and become more involved in the WYQS project. It is certain that you will have made an important contribution to the wider culture of West Yorkshire and helped to raise awareness of the achievements and issues faced by LGBTIQ+ communities.

There can also be other benefits to telling your story - perhaps affirming your own personal journey and boosting your self-esteem. Many people find it rewarding to have their contributions recognised publicly and are pleased to have an opportunity to add their account to a historically significant collection of archived interviews.

WHAT DOES TAKING PART MEAN?

If you agree to take part we will record an interview with you at your home or in a community location that is comfortable, accessible and appropriate for you. The interview will be carried out by WYQS volunteers, supported by Community Development Workers based at Yorkshire MESMAC.

The material generated in the interview will be stored digitally and transcribed. Any other objects you may offer will be added to the collection and may be used in future displays or on digital platforms. By agreeing to participate (and signing the 'Agreement Form') you are allowing WYQS to use this material.

WILL THERE BE MUCH PAPERWORK?

All of the paperwork with any personal information (like your name and contact details) will be removed and stored separately in accordance with Data Protection, Confidentiality and Safeguarding guidelines. Although your contact details are protected, the stories and materials you share with us will not in themselves be considered confidential.

It is important to consider your decision to share your story and the particular details you give in your testimony – specifically things like names and other details which could lead to someone being identified.

Publications, reports and displays which come out of the project may use quotations of your words from the interview. In your 'Agreement Form' you will be asked to confirm that you are happy for your quotations (in audio or print form), image and video to be used. The volunteer will discuss these details with you and record your choices.

The volunteer will check with you about how any quotations should be attributed. You could just use your first name, choose another name, or opt to be identified as 'anonymous' if you don't want to be easily identified in the information which will be displayed to the public. It is also important to consider this for other LGBTIQ+ individuals who may feature in your testimony as well as your own family. This is something you can discuss with volunteers and which can also be reviewed after you have given your testimony (but only up until the material has been formally 'acquired' into the collection).

AFTER THE INTERVIEW

Along with this information you will be given a monitoring form, or we can provide an electronic version to return via email. We will separate the form from any identifying details so we can collect the key information anonymously. The monitoring form will help us to assess if we are including the full range of people who make up diverse LGBTIQ+ communities. You will be emailed afterwards for your feedback about the experience of participating in the project.

You can request to listen to and check your recording afterwards, in which case it will be sent electronically to you, and you will have a week to provide any feedback.

Thank you again for offering your time to share your memories. If you have any further questions, please email one of the WYQS project's Community Development Workers:

Ross: r.horsley@mesmac.co.uk

Rachel: r.larman@mesmac.co.uk

SOURCES OF SUPPORT

We hope that the experience of taking part will be enjoyable; however, it is important to consider any negative consequences. One of the risks to consider is that the material you share might expose you or someone you know to a bad experience. This is why it is important to discuss this with the person who interviews you.

Talking about past experiences can sometimes bring up grief and sadness and, for some people, this can happen a little while after the conversation. Below is a list of agencies who can offer support. (If any participant reveals information indicating that they are currently at risk of serious harm – that they intend to hurt themselves or are at risk of serious harm from someone they know – we will take action to keep that person safe, but we would talk that over with them first.)

Yorkshire MESMAC provides a range of health and support services to LGBTIQ+ people.

website: mesmac.co.uk
telephone: 0113 244 4209

Services listed here are suggestions, their inclusion does not constitute a recommendation.

African Rainbow Family Support LGBTIQ+ People of African Heritage including Refugees and wider Black and Asian Minority Ethnic Groups.

website: africanrainbowfamily.org
telephone: 07711 285 567

Frank provides friendly, confidential drugs advice.

website: talktofrank.com
telephone: 0300 123 6600

Leeds Age UK supports older people.

website: ageuk.org.uk
telephone: 0113 389 3000

Leeds Mind supports people with mental health problems.

website: leedsmind.org.uk
telephone: 0113 305 5800

Leeds Survivor-Led Crisis Service offers services to people experiencing mental health crisis.

website: lslcs.org.uk
telephone: 0113 260 9328 /
0808 800 1212

Leeds Women's Aid supports women facing domestic abuse.

website: leedswomensaid.co.uk
telephone: 0113 246 0401

Men's Advice Line advises male victims of domestic violence and abuse.

website: mensadviceline.org.uk
telephone: 0808 801 0327

Samaritans Leeds – if something's troubling you, get in touch.

website: samaritans.org
telephone: 08457 90 90 90
(24 hours)

Stop Hate UK support all victims of hate crime.

website: stophateuk.org
telephone: 0808 801 0661

Touchstone provides mental health services particularly to people from BAME communities.

website: touchstonesupport.org.uk
telephone: 0113 271 8277 /
0113 216 4143 (Punjabi)