



Research Consent Form

From Ritual to Recovery: Spirituality as a Coping Tool for Women recovering from War Related Violence in Sierra Leone

GW IRB number: 090801

Principal Investigator: Dan Moshenberg

Telephone number: 202-994-9086

Sub-Investigator: Sariane Leigh

Telephone number: 410-924-6842

Sponsor: *n/a*

1) **Introduction**

You are invited to participate in a research study under the direction of Dr. Dan Moshenberg of the Department of Women's Studies, George Washington University (GWU). Taking part in this research is entirely voluntary.

2) **Why is this study being done?**

You are being asked to take part in this study because of your experience living through civil war in Sierra Leone. The objective of this study is to examine the unique ways in which spirituality has served as a coping tool for women living through the civil war in Sierra Leone from 1991-2001. Your interview will help students understand trauma, recovery, spirituality, in the lives of Sierra Leonean women. Hopefully, this study will contribute to knowledge about spirituality and women in Sierra Leone and expand field of women's studies and Africana studies.

The research will be conducted at the following locations: Silver Spring, Maryland, New York City, NY, and Washington, DC. A total of 5-10 participants will be asked to take part in this study. You will be one of approximately 5-10 participants to be asked to take part at this location.

3) **What is involved in this study?**

If you choose to take part in this study, you will first be asked questions about who you are such as age, religion, gender, job, children, wife, mother etc... You will then be asked to participate in an informal interview about how spirituality impacted your experience living in Sierra Leone during the civil war. This interview will be audio recorded but the

tapes will be destroyed one week after we translate it. The interview will last from 30 minutes to 2 hours.

4) What are the risks of participating in this study?

Possible risks and discomforts you could experience during this study include:

Confidentiality

There are no physical risks associated with this study. There is, however, the possible risk of loss of confidentiality. Every effort will be made to keep your information confidential, however, this can not be guaranteed.

Psychological

The principal-research specific risks include psychological flashbacks as a result of recalling traumatic incidences. There are no biological/physical, or financial risks. The social privacy invasion and legal risks include disclosing personal emotional situations such as rape or sexual trauma.

During the interview, if you remember anything that you do not want to talk about related to the civil war you may stop and I will ask if you would like to seek assistance in the form of therapy or counseling. Some of the questions we will ask you as part of this study may make you feel uncomfortable. You may refuse to answer any of the questions and you may take a break at any time during the study. You may stop your participation in this study at any time.

At the beginning of the interview I will provide you with a list of free therapeutic resources such as International Rescue Committee in Silver Spring, Center for Multicultural Human Services in Falls Church, VA, The George Washington Psychiatry Department in Washington D.C., New York University's Bellevue Center for Refugee Trauma in New York, York.

5) Are there benefits to taking part in this study?

You will not benefit directly from your participation in the study. The benefits to science and humankind that might result from this study are a better understanding of spirituality in the lives of Sierra Leonean women.

6) What are my options?

You do not have to participate in this study if you do not want to. Should you decide to participate and later change your mind, you can do so at anytime.

7) Will I receive payment for being in this study?

You will not be paid for taking part in this study.

8) Can I be taken off the study?

The investigator can decide to withdraw you from the study at any time. You could be taken off the study for reasons related solely to you (for example, not following study-related directions from the Investigator) or because the entire study is stopped.

9) How will my privacy be protected?

If results of this research study are reported in journals or at scientific meetings, the people who participated in this study will not be named or identified. GW will not release any information about your research involvement without your written permission, unless required by law.

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Your privacy and confidentiality will be protected throughout this process by using another name (not your name) on recordings and data sheets and kept separate from your real name.. All names of persons, organizations, and affiliations associated with the women will remain confidential.

10) Problems or Questions

The Office of Human Research of George Washington University, at telephone number (202) 994-2715, can provide further information about your rights as a research participant. If you think you have been harmed in this study, you report this to the Principal Investigator of this study. Further information regarding this study may be obtained by contacting **Dr. Moshenberg** (principal investigator) at telephone number (202-994-6942). For problems arising evenings or weekends, you may call Sariane Leigh sub investigator 410-924-6842)

If you agree to participate in this study, please sign below:

11) Documentation of Informed Consent

Subject's Name (printed) and Signature

Date

Name (printed) and Signature of Person Obtaining Consent

Date

Principal Investigator's Signature

Date

DO NOT SIGN AFTER EXPIRATION DATE OF: 10/6/09

Tape recording

With your consent, the interview will be audio-recorded. All indicators will be removed from the data. The transcript will not include your name or any information directly identifying you. Please check the appropriate box below:

I agree to have the interview audio-recorded

I do not wish to have the interview audio-recorded

If you agree to participate in this study, please sign below:

NOTE

To ensure anonymity, your signature is not required in this document unless you prefer to sign it. Your willingness to participate in this research study is implied if you proceed with completing the survey/interview.

