

## LETTER OF INTRODUCTION AND INFORMED CONSENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN ACADEMIC RESEARCH

### Title of the Study:

An awareness-raising campaign and REACH intervention to promote forgiveness at a community level in South Africa: Study 1a

### Researcher (s):

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This informed consent form will tell you about this research study. It is important that you read and understand this consent form and the study before you decide to be part of this study. This consent form may contain words that you do not understand. If any information contained in this consent form is not clear, please contact the study staff to explain any information that you do not fully understand.

### **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

The purpose of this research study is to determine whether existing measures of forgiveness and related concepts, which have been created and used mainly in Western cultures, can be adapted for use in the South African context. You are being asked to participate in this study because you are 18 years of age or older, can read, speak English and are a South African resident who identifies with the local community.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AND YOUR INVOLVEMENT**

In this study you will be asked to complete a survey at three different times. For the first survey, you will complete several demographic questions such as your age, gender, and religious affiliation, and questions about your thoughts and feelings on forgiveness and areas related to it (e.g., social harmony). The second and third surveys will be completed approximately 6 and 12 months after the first survey. You will again complete a set of questions about areas related to forgiveness during each of those surveys. Each survey will last about 20-25 minutes. If you decide to be in this research study, you will be asked to consent to participate in this study by

selecting “*I choose to participate in this study*”, after you have had all your questions answered and understand how you will be involved.

All of your data will be kept strictly confidential and will be viewed by the research study personnel only. You do not have to answer any questions you do not wish to answer or participate in any activities you do not wish to, and you may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.

## **RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS**

The risks are no greater than the risks associated with daily living. However, if participating in this study causes you to feel the least bit uncomfortable, you can skip any of the questions, stop participating in the study or refuse to participate in the study altogether. If participating in this study causes you to feel upset or you become concerned about your psychological state, the study staff will provide you with contact information for resources available that can help you address these issues, including:

- Lifeline, website: <http://www.lifelinedurban.org.za/>
  - Crisis Line +27 (0)31 312 2323
  - Office Line +27 (0)31 303 1344

You are encouraged to speak to your personal religious elder, family elder or family member about your feelings of distress if you choose not to use any of the services available.

## **BENEFITS TO YOU AND OTHERS**

There are no direct benefits to participating in this study, but you may acquire insight into some of your thoughts and feelings about some of the topic areas included in the survey.

## **COMPENSATION**

If you complete the first survey, you will be entered into a lottery draw to win one of 50 Visa e-gift cards valued at R200 each. If you complete the second survey, which will take place 6 months after completing the first survey, you will be entered into a lottery draw to win one of 50 Visa e-gift cards valued at R300 each. If you complete the third survey, which will take place 12 months after completing the first survey, you will be entered into a lottery draw to win one of 50 Visa e-gift cards valued at R400 each. Winners of each lottery draw will be notified of such via email or telephone.

## **COSTS**

There are no costs for participating in this study other than the time you will spend taking the study.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

The alternative to participating in this study is to not participate.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

The data collected in this study will not be personally identifiable, as no name, birth date, or other potentially identifiable information will be matched with your

responses. Data are being collected only for research purposes. All information will be kept in password protected electronic files. Electronic files of the study data will be kept indefinitely. Access to all data will be limited to study personnel.

We will not tell anyone the answers you give us; however, information from the study may be looked at or copied for research or legal purposes by the University of Pretoria.

What we find from this study may be presented at meetings or published in papers, but your name will not ever be used in these presentations or papers.

### **VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION AND WITHDRAWAL**

You do not have to participate in this study. If you choose to participate, you may stop at any time without any penalty, loss of care, service or benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

To withdraw all of your information or parts of your information from the study, you can contact the investigators listed on this consent form at any time before the study is completed. You may also choose not to answer particular questions that are asked in the study.

### **QUESTIONS**

In the future, you may have questions about your participation in this study. If you have any questions, complaints, or concerns about the research, contact:

Dr. Shaun Joynt, PhD  
Cell: 083 451 3662  
Email: shaun@joynt.co.za

Dr. Richard Cowden, PhD  
Cell: +1 615 663 7976  
Email: richardgregorycowden@gmail.com

If you have any questions about your rights as a participant in this study, you may contact:

*FTREC Chairperson: Dr Tanya van Wyk*  
*Email: tanya.vanwykup.ac.za*  
*Telephone: +27 (0)12 420 2789*  
University of Pretoria  
cnr Lynnwood Road and Roper Street  
Hatfield, Pretoria  
*South Africa*

You may also contact this number for general questions, concerns or complaints about the research. Please call this number if you cannot reach the research team or wish to talk to someone else.

**CONSENT**

I have been given the chance to read this consent form. I understand the information about this study. Questions that I wanted to ask about the study have been answered. I am stating that I am willing to participate in this study. I also verify that I am 18 years of age or older.

- I choose to participate in this study.
- I choose not to participate in this study.

Respondent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Respondent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Researcher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Researcher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Thank you for your time and cooperation***