

Information Sheet for Schools & Youth Organisations

Adolescents' Perspectives on Personal Safety in Public Transport (Interview Study)

Purpose and importance of this research

This study explores how young people aged **11 to 18 (all genders)** understand **personal safety on public transport**. This age group is often affected by **gender-based harassment**, but they often do not yet have the tools, confidence, or awareness of the support available to navigate them safely. There is a lack of research on this age group, and young people's specific safety needs are often overlooked in current safety initiatives and campaigns.

Our study aims to address this gap by **listening directly to young people** – understanding their perspectives on the issue, their awareness of current support and interventions, and their ideas for how things could be improved to better support them and their peers.

Importantly, the study has been **carefully designed to be safe and age-appropriate**. Participants will **not be asked to share personal experiences**. Instead, they will discuss hypothetical, third-person scenarios to reflect on general attitudes and the effectiveness of current approaches to safety.

Ultimately, the goal of this research is to inform **better educational practices and awareness campaigns** to ensure more accessible support for young people. In addition, participation offers an **educational opportunity** for students to learn more about personal safety and the support available to them.

Value of this research for your school/organisation

Through this project, **your school/organisation can benefit from:**

- A **summary report** of key findings that may support safeguarding, PSHE or pastoral care work.
- Opportunities for students to **share their ideas** on how to improve safety around public transport.
- **Practical resources** designed to help students respond confidently to incidents of harassment and feel safer when travelling.

We also welcome feedback and collaboration throughout the project and are happy to discuss how our findings can best support your organisation's needs.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The research is organised by Coventry University. The research is **subject to ethics approval** through Coventry University's Research Ethics review and approval process [reference: P188148]. *Angelika Berg (M.A.)*, postgraduate researcher from the Centre for Future Transport and Cities at Coventry University, is leading this research. Co-researchers are *Dr Arun Ulahannan* from the Centre for Future Transport and Cities, and *Dr Grace Carter* from the Centre for Healthcare and Communities. **All members of the research team** have completed **enhanced DBS checks**.

What the research involves:

Interviews

- Conducted **online via Microsoft Teams**.
- **25–30 students** will be interviewed.
- Each interview is **one-to-one** and lasts **35-45 minutes**, scheduled at a time convenient for the student.

Students will be asked to share their views on a set of **general, hypothetical scenarios** about **feeling and being safe on public transport as a young person**. They will be asked a few questions to explore their **needs, opinions, and ideas for improvement**. The interview will be **audio-recorded** (with explicit permission). Audio-recordings will be destroyed once they have been transcribed.

Recruitment Process

- Schools/Youth organisations will only need to **share the study information** with students and parents — for example, via group email, noticeboard, or school blog.
- The **research team will then manage all communication** with parents and participants directly, so this will not create extra work for staff.
- For **students under 16**, both **parental consent** and **the student's own consent** will be required.
- For **students aged 16 and over**, only **the student's own informed consent** is needed.

Timelines

- **Recruitment:** from late October
- **Interviews:** November–December

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Throughout the study, we will follow safeguarding procedures to ensure the students' safety and wellbeing.

- The researcher has **carefully considered all potential risks**, and these have been **minimised** wherever possible.
- Some topics might be **sensitive**, but students **will not be asked to share personal experiences**. Questions remain **general** to reduce distress.
- Students can skip any question, take a break, or stop the interview at any time without giving a reason.
- **Information about support services** will be provided if needed.
- **Confidentiality** is a top priority. However, in rare cases where there is a **legal or safeguarding obligation**, confidentiality may need to be broken. For example:
 - If a student shares something that indicates **risk of harm** to themselves or others.
 - If a **court or police investigation** requires access to relevant information.
- In all cases, we will follow **Coventry University's safeguarding policies and ethical procedures** to ensure participants' **safety and wellbeing**.

If you would like further information or to discuss how this would work in your school/organisation, please contact the lead researcher.

Data Protection

All information collected during this study will be treated **confidentially** and **stored securely**, in line with **UK GDPR data protection regulations**. The researcher must handle all collected data safely and in accordance with Coventry University Policies, Standards, and Procedures, including our Research Ethics and Integrity Statements and our Research Privacy Notice available on our website at <https://www.coventry.ac.uk/gdpr-and-data-protection/privacy-notices/> .

What will happen to the results of the research?

The results may be summarised in published articles, reports and presentation. Quotes or key findings will always be made anonymous in any formal outputs.

Researcher contact details

- Lead Researcher - Angelika Berg: berga@uni.coventry.ac.uk
- Director of Studies - Dr. Arun Ulahannan: ad5091@coventry.ac.uk

Feel free to reach out if you have further questions.

Thank you for taking time to read this.